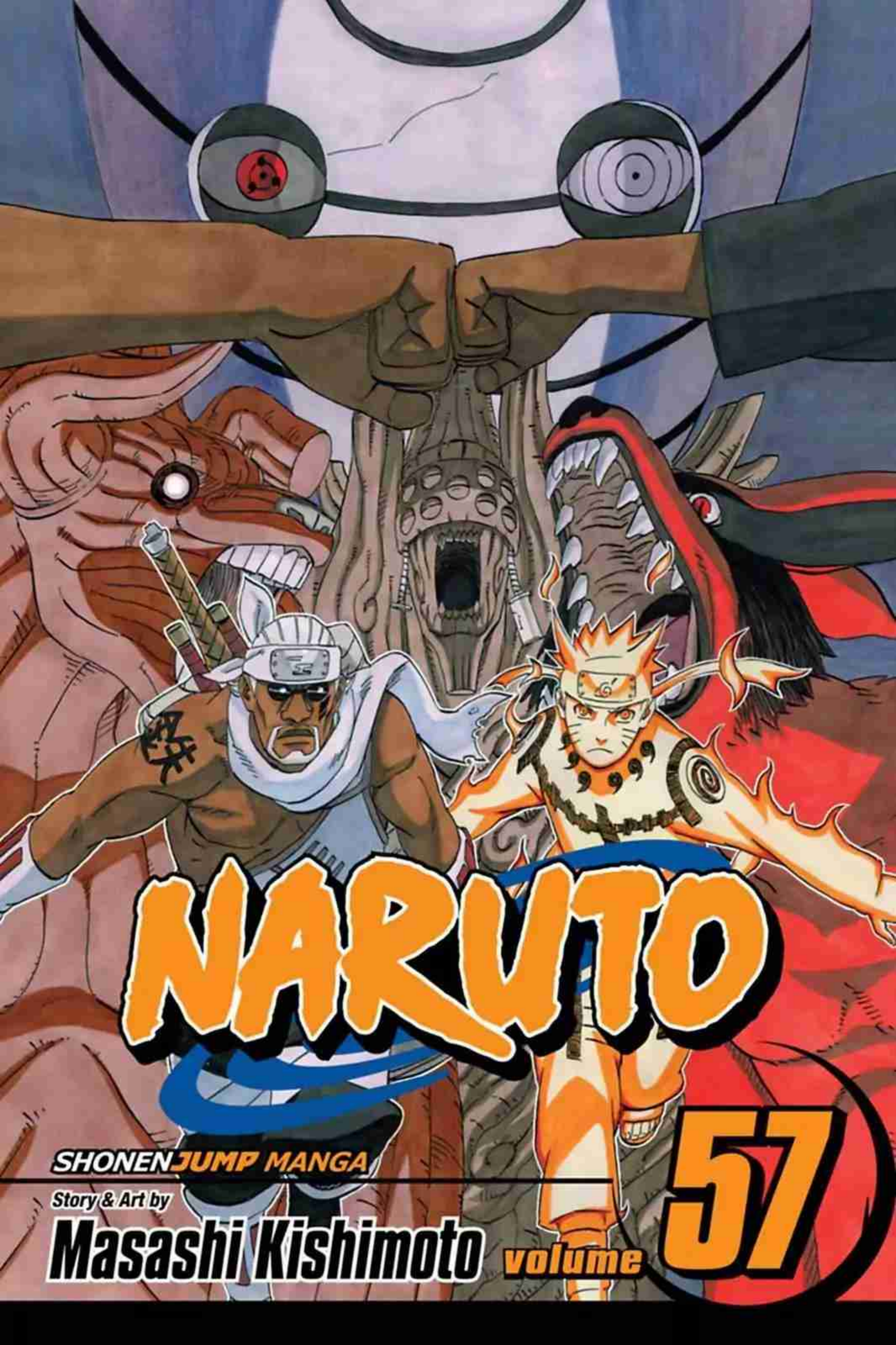


The cover features a dynamic illustration. At the top, a large, brown, mechanical hand with a red circular sensor on its palm is reaching down. Below it, a large, pink, multi-eyed creature with a single prominent eye is on the left. In the center, a stone golem with multiple eyes and an open mouth is visible. On the right, a large, red, dragon-like creature with sharp teeth and a single eye is shown. In the foreground, two characters are running towards the viewer. On the left is Gaara, wearing his signature white headband and armor, with a sword on his back. On the right is Naruto Uzumaki, in his orange jumpsuit, with flames around him. The background is a mix of blue and red hues.

NARUTO

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto

volume

57



岸本 斉史

Main character Naruto finally returns to center stage in this volume! I'm so glad to be able to draw the titular character again! I was told by someone that this was "a manga where the main character isn't very involved is used quite stingily," but he'll be really active from here on out!! ...I think! ...Er... Hmm, I wonder... I don't really know about the future... Well...

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2011

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.





NARUTO VOL. 57
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation/Mari Morimoto
English Adaptation/Joel Enos
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Sabrina Heep
Design/Sam Elzway
Editor/Joel Enos

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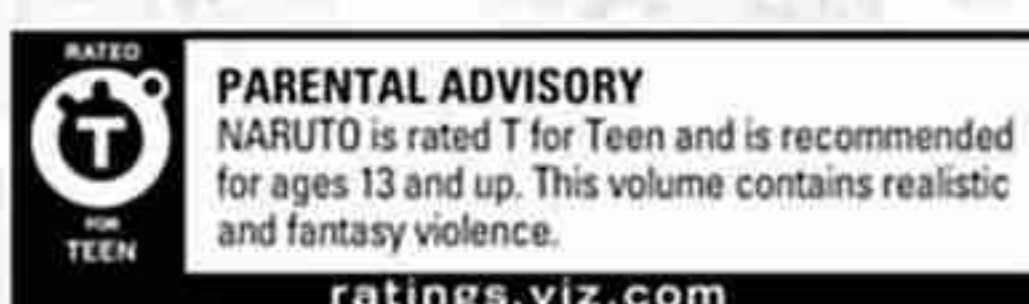
The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

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First printing, July 2012





SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



VOL. 57

BATTLE

STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS



Naruto ナルト



Sasuke サスケ



Kakashi カカシ



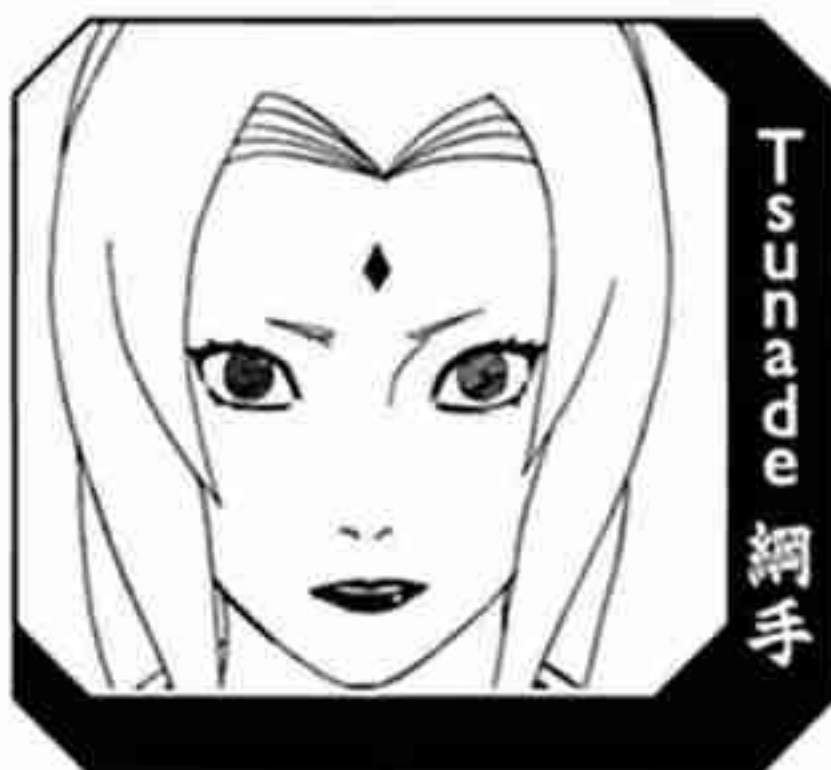
Sakura サクラ



Sai サイ



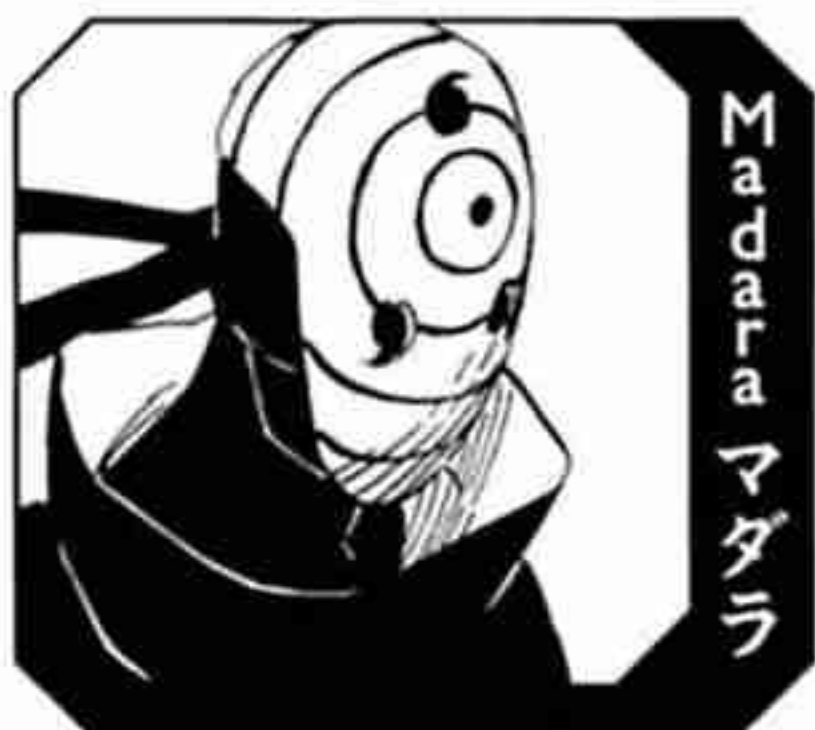
Yamato ヤマト



Tsunade 綱手



Gaara 我愛羅



THE STORY SO FAR...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the Village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a full-fledged ninja. With his classmates Sasuke and Sakura, he endures countless trials and battles, growing ever stronger. However, Sasuke, unable to give up his quest for vengeance for the death of his family, leaves Konoha to seek out the rogue ninja Orochimaru, who he believes will give him great power.

As two years pass, Naruto battles the Tailed Beast-targeting Akatsuki organization while Sasuke triumphs over his murderous brother, Itachi. But new intel sets Sasuke, now aligned with the Akatsuki, on a new mission of revenge, this time against the village of Konoha itself.

Madara of the Akatsuki declares war on the Five Great Nations, prompting the Gokage, the five great leaders, to create an Allied Shinobi Force. The Fourth Great Ninja War begins. The Allied Forces confront an army of resurrected dead heroes and Naruto, still in the midst of training, attempts to sneak out and join the fray.



NARUTO

VOL. 57
BATTLE

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Number 535: Iruka's Impact

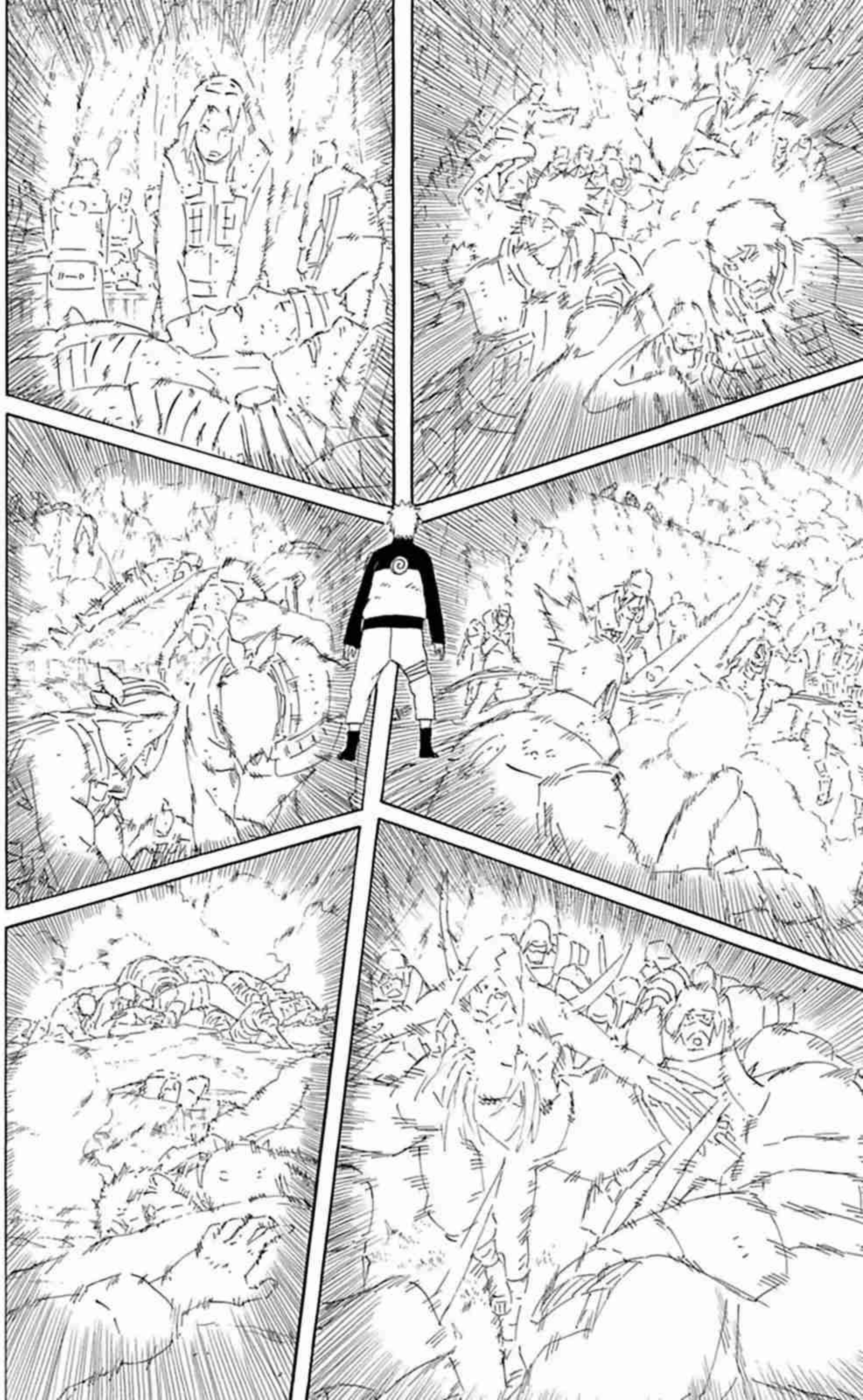






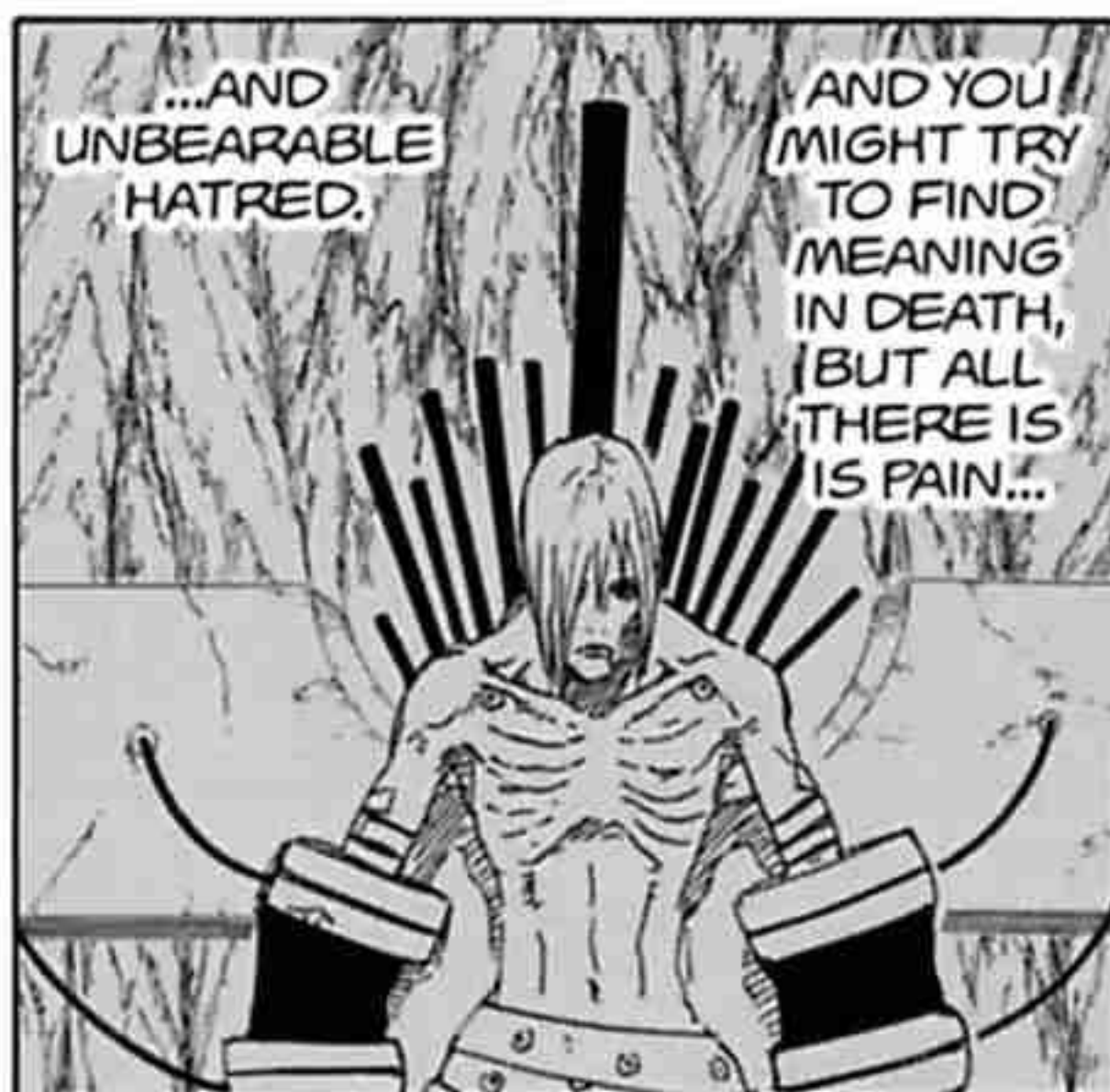














**I CAN
STOP
THIS!!**

**I WILL
FACE
ETERNAL
HATRED.
I WILL FACE
THE PAIN
THAT DOES
NOT HEAL!!**

**THAT'S
MY
ROLE!!**



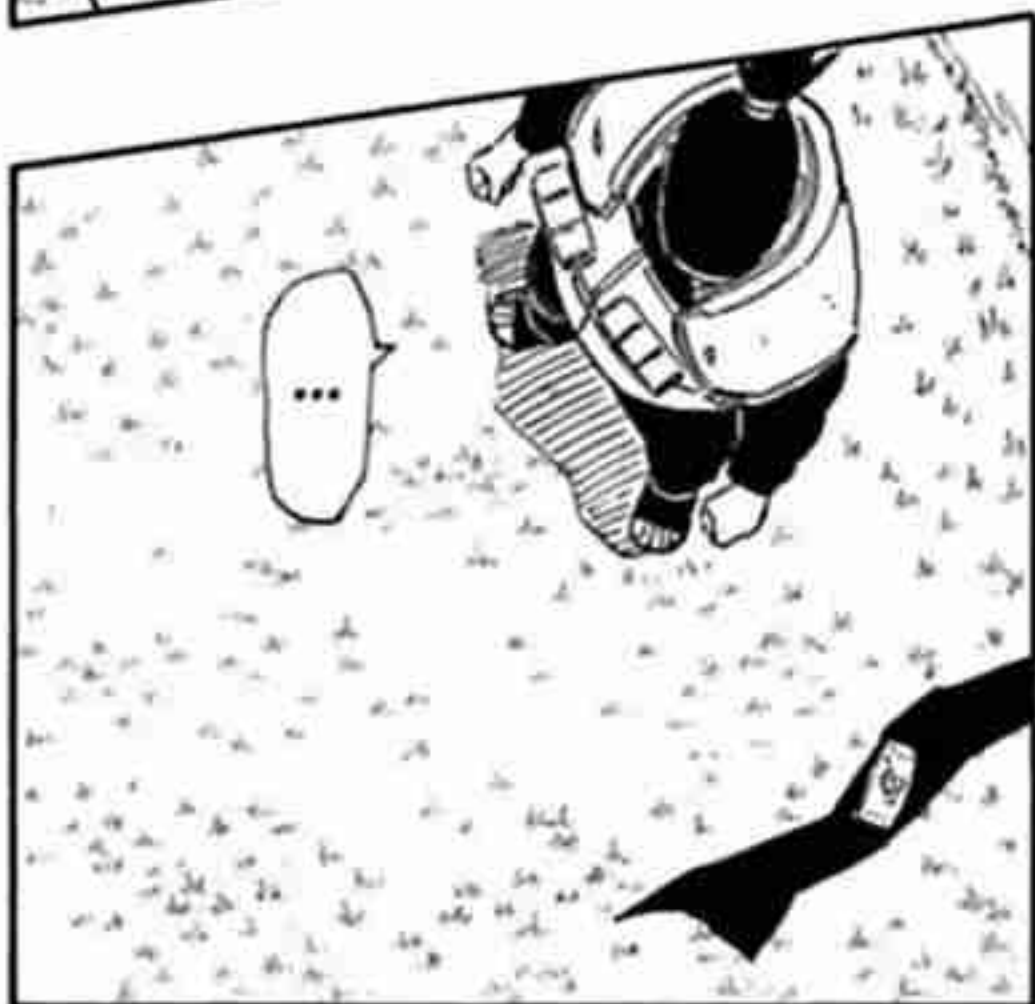


HOW AM I
GOING TO
STAND HERE
AND
LET THAT
HAPPEN?

OUR ENEMY
IS SEEKING
YOU OUT...
TO KILL YOU.

WHY
SHOULD YOU
CONTINUE
TO BEAR THE
BURDENS OF
EVERYONE
ELSE?

...YOU'RE
AS CLOSE
TO ME AS
A LITTLE
BROTHER.



YOU
GAVE
ME
THE
HEAD-
BAND!

BUT I'M
STRONG!
I'M NOT
JUST
SOME
LITTLE KID
ANYMORE!









THE FACT
THAT YOU'RE
READING THIS
MEANS I
COULDN'T
STOP YOU.

I KNOW
YOU'RE GOING
TO RUSH
TO THE
BATTLEFIELD.

お前のことだ。あぐに戦場へ駆
ようとするだろう。
覚悟は知ってる。

オレは



READ
THIS
WAY











PRI-
VATE
CLAN?



TO
NARUTO
YOU
SHINE
LIKE THE
SUN.♪

NARUTO
NEEDS
YOU.

WHAT-
EVER
YOU
DONE.♪



....!

YOU'RE
PART OF
NARUTO'S
PRIVATE
CLAN.♪



CHEW

CHEW

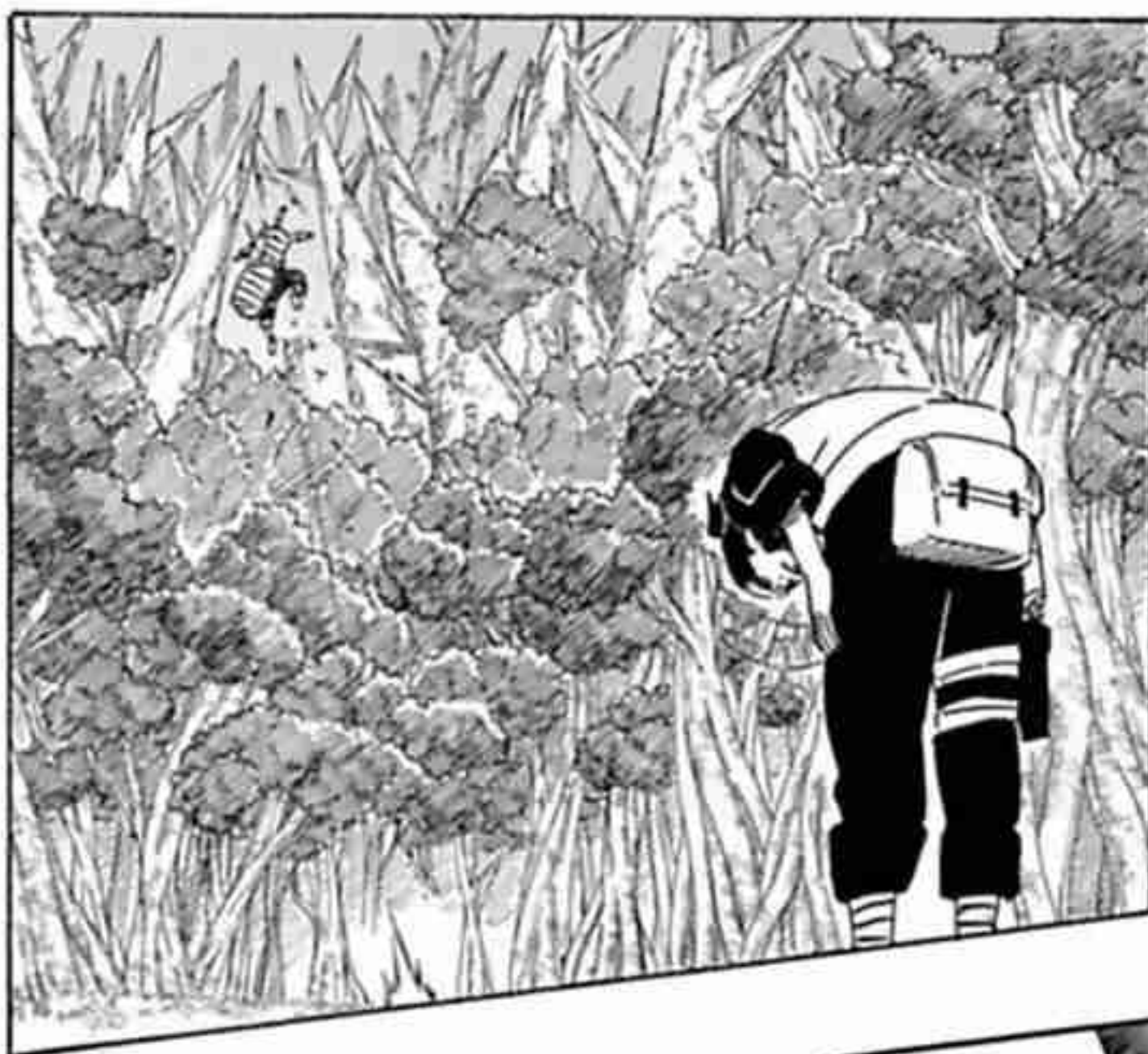


NARUTO
LISTENS
TO
ALL YOU
SAY.♪

CHOMP
CHOMP



CHOMP









IN-
COMING!
IT'S
NARUTO!



HE
WILL
NOT
PASS!!

TIME FOR
OUR BLOOD,
SWEAT AND
TEARS TO SHOW
WHAT WE CAN
DO WITH THIS
IMPENETRABLE
BARRIER!

BARRIER
CORPS,
READY!



WHOA!!

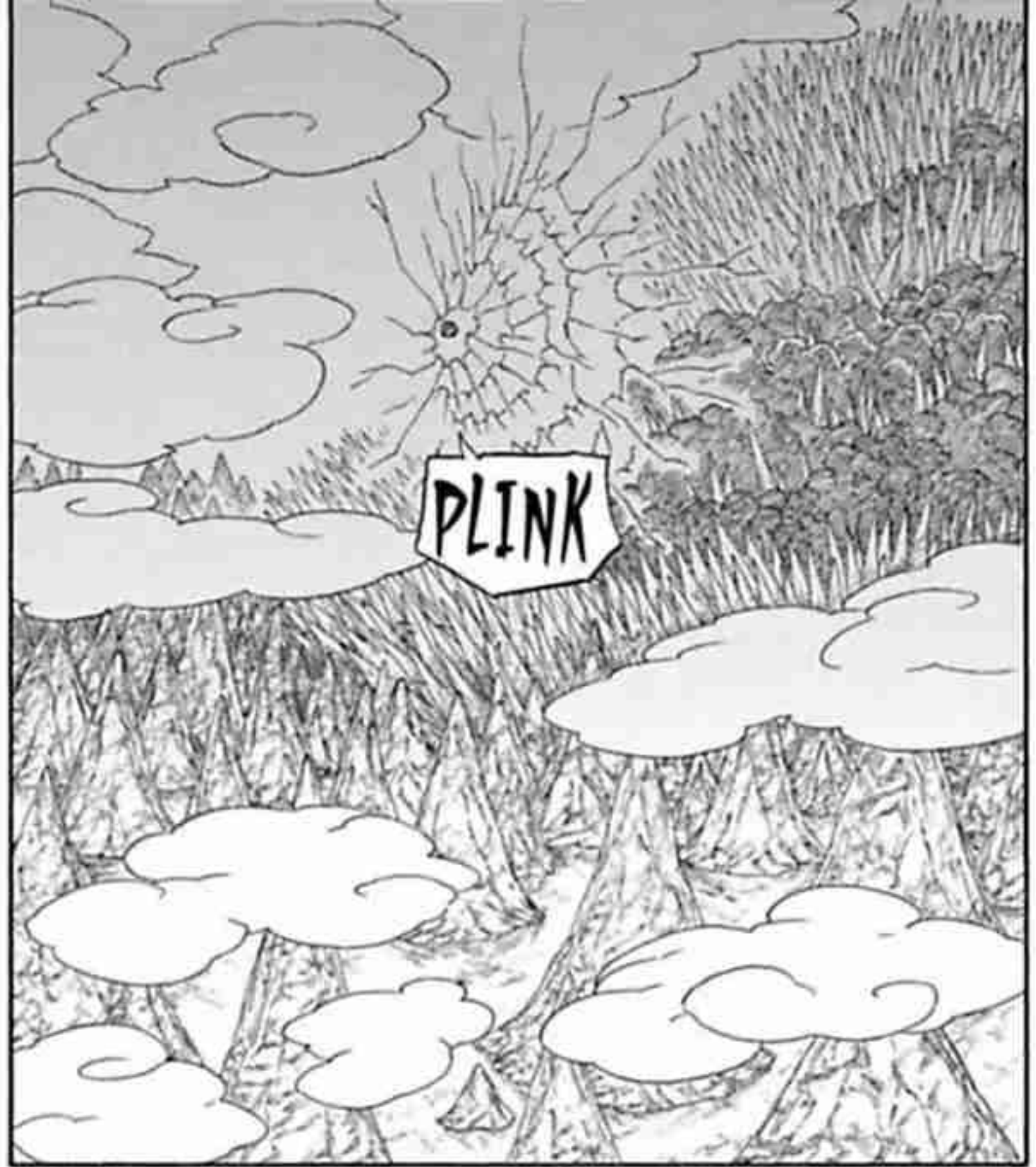
UNDER-
STAND?

ALL HQ WILL
HEAR FROM US
IS "MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED,
SUBJECT
DETAINED"!!!





KILLER
BEE
TOO?



PLINK



ZWP

BZP BZP BZP

I GOT
THE
FIELD,
FOOL!!

YOU GET
THE BIJU
BOMB IN
LITTLE
FOOL!!



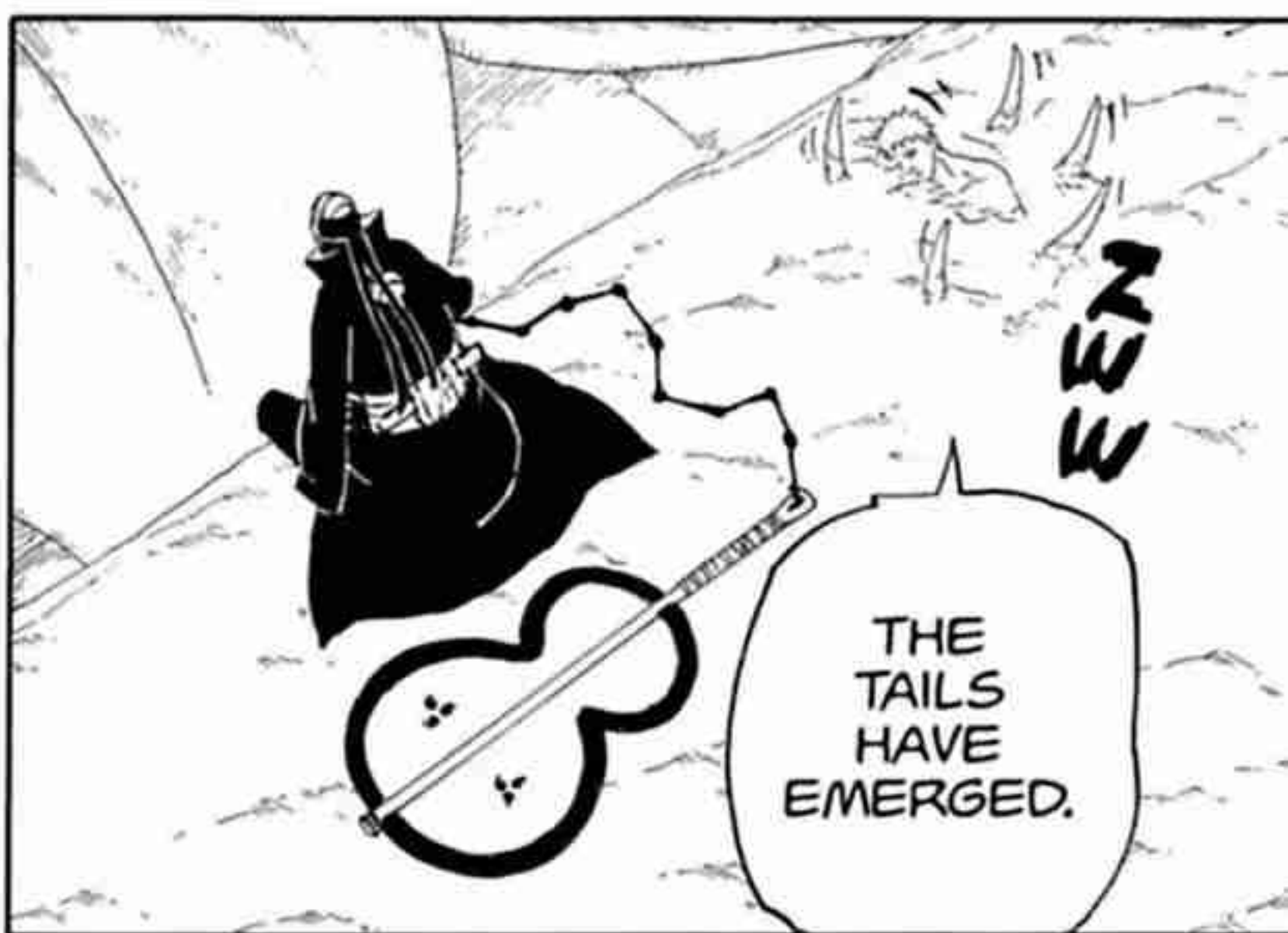
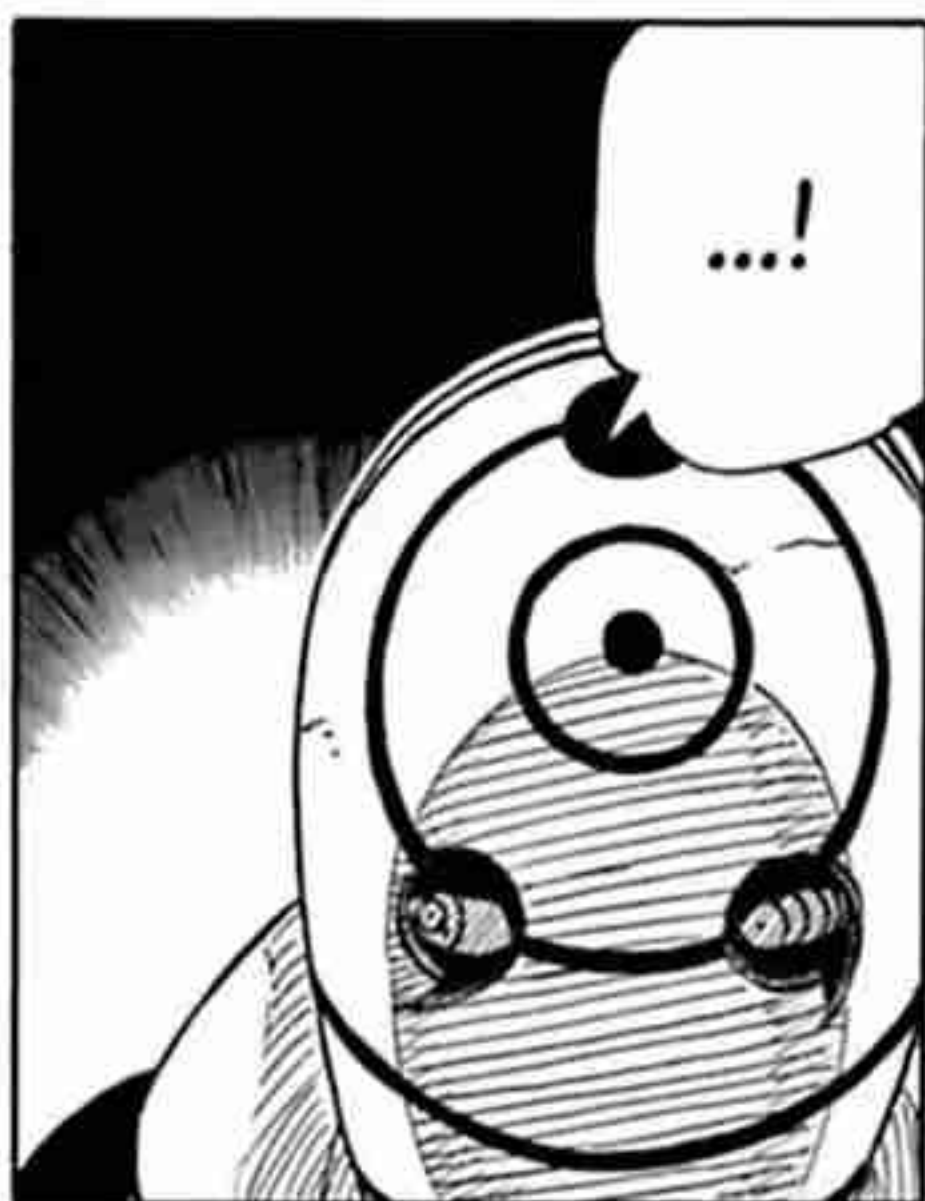
TWHA

OKAY!!

THUD



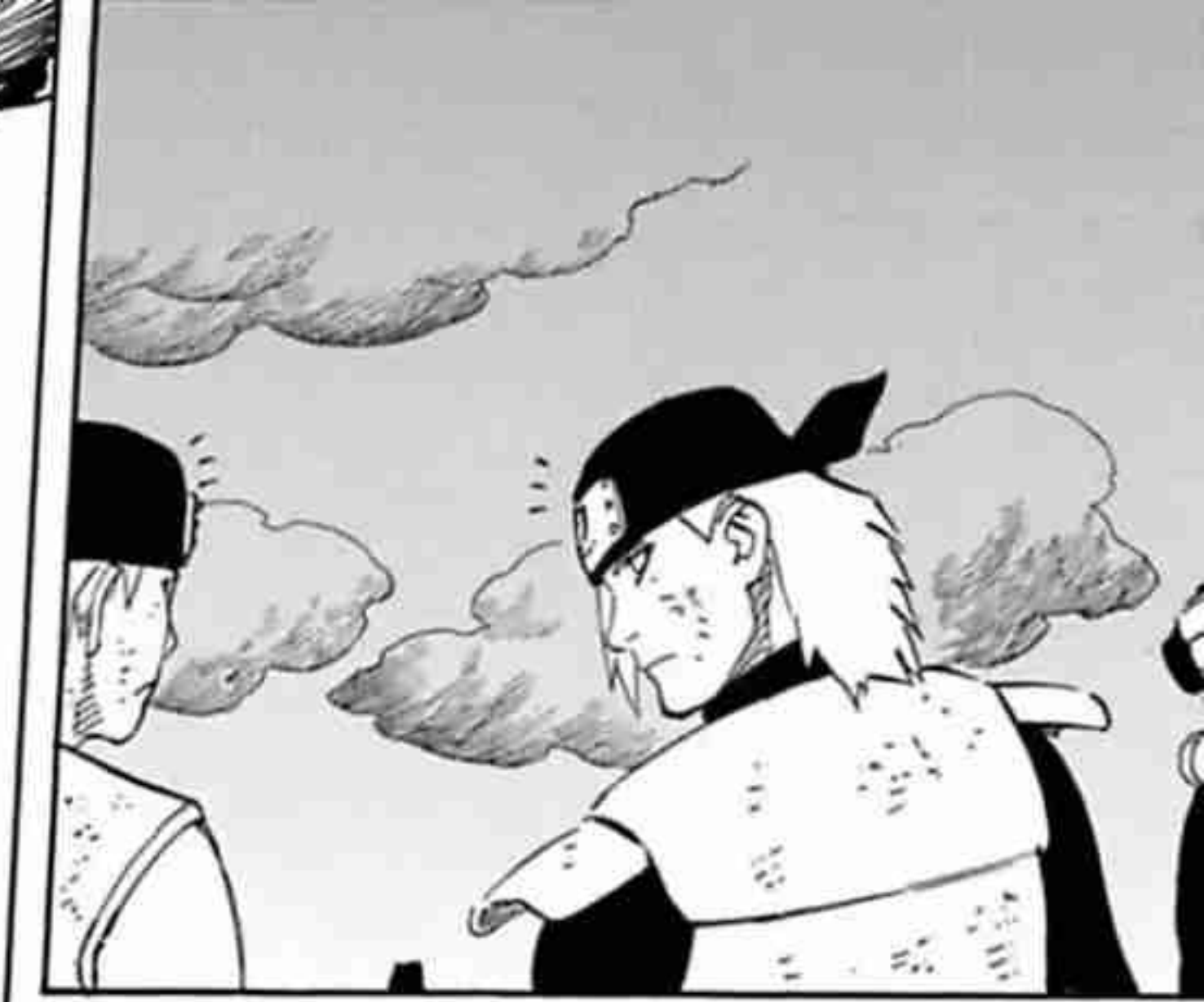


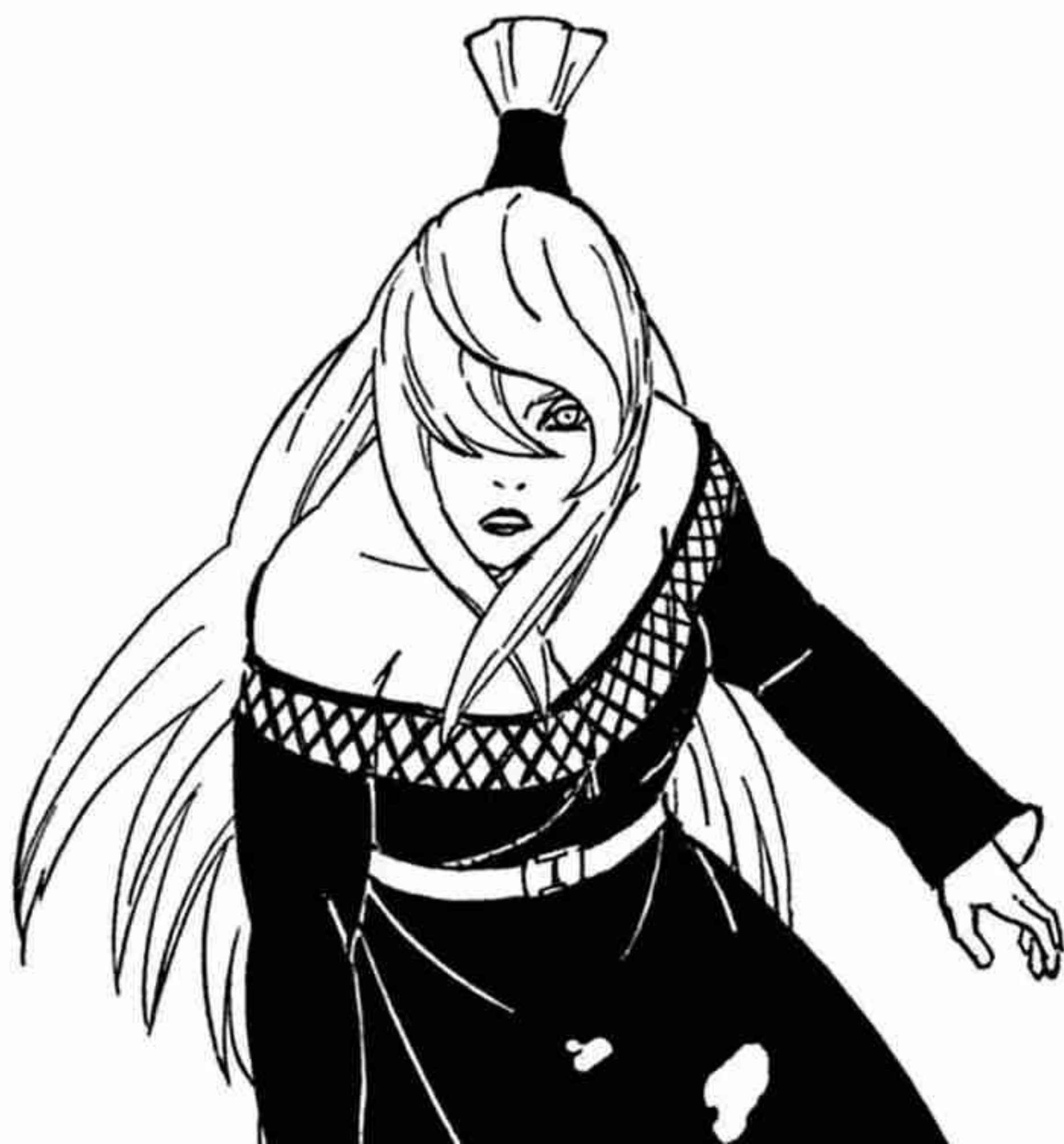


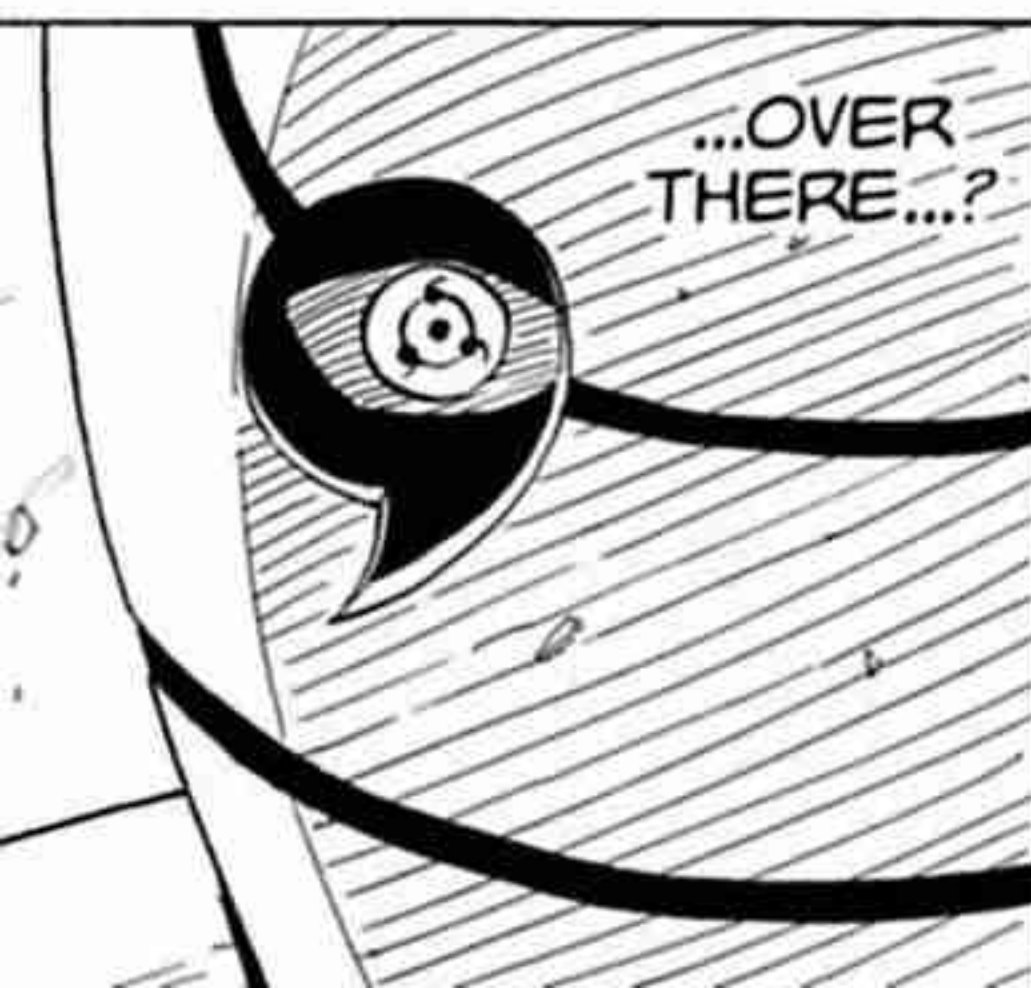










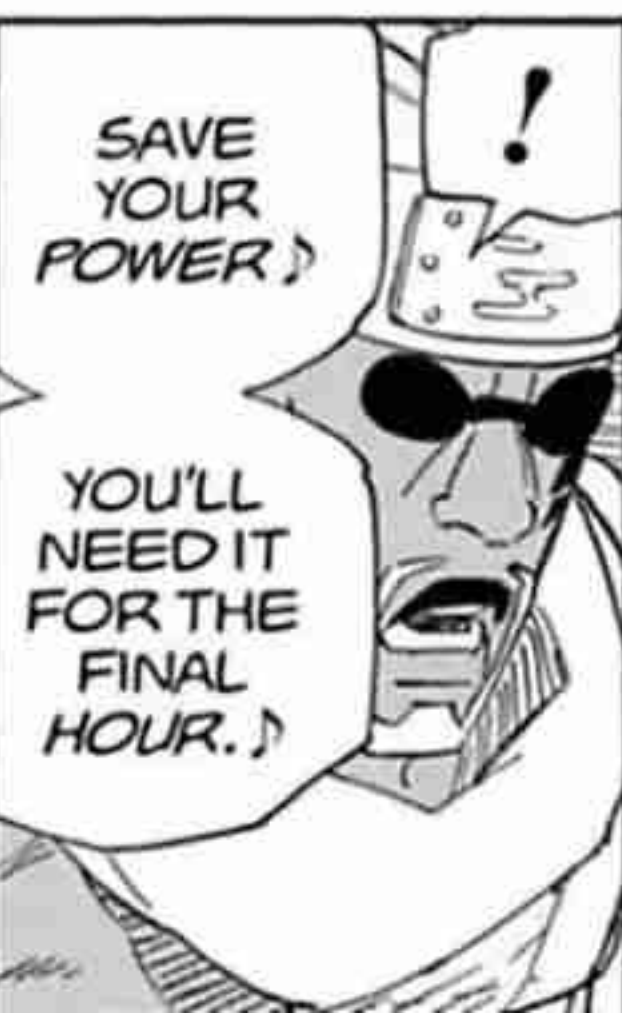








NO TIME
TO
WASTE!!



SAVE
YOUR
POWER.!

YOU'LL
NEED IT
FOR THE
FINAL
HOUR.!



NOW
THEN.



WHAT'S
HAPPEN-
ING?!

ARGH!



WAAAH!!



WHAT IS IT?!

SOME KIND OF IMMENSE CHAKRA FIELD HAS APPEARED ON THE BATTLEFIELD IN THE VICINITY OF DARUI'S FIRST COMPANY!!

INCREDIBLE CHAKRA!!



WHO?!



IT'S RAVAGING OUR TROOPS!

IT APPEARS TO BE SOME SORT OF GIANT HUMANOID CREATURE!!

AND IT APPEARS TO BE CONTROLLED BY...



WHY?

THE LEADER JOINS THE FIGHT?



WE NEED A NEW STRATEGY RIGHT NOW!



...UCHIHA MADARA!!



**EARTH
STYLE!
MOUNTAIN
JUTSU!!!**



WHAT?

UGH.

A black and white manga-style illustration of a character, likely a woman, with long, dark hair and a determined expression. She is wearing a dark, patterned garment. The image is heavily stylized with large, bold, black letters 'K' and 'R' overlaid on the left side, suggesting a powerful action or sound effect. The background is filled with jagged, angular shapes, possibly representing a rocky or shattered surface.

A black and white manga-style illustration. In the center, a character with a wide-open mouth is shouting. The sound effect 'RAAWR' is written vertically on the right side of the character. Surrounding the character are several 'KLIK' sound effects, each enclosed in a circular burst of lines, suggesting a rhythmic or mechanical sound. The character has a determined expression and is wearing a headband with a circular emblem. The background is dark and textured with vertical lines.

RAAWR

MOORE

A black and white manga-style illustration of a powerful explosion. A central figure, resembling a tree or a person with a large, spiky head, stands amidst a massive cloud of smoke and debris. The scene is framed by large, bold, stylized text "G-G-G" on the left and "G-G-G" on the right. The background shows a rocky, mountainous landscape with a grid-like pattern on the ground.

A black and white manga-style illustration of a powerful explosion. A central figure, resembling a tree or a person with a large, spiky head, stands amidst a massive cloud of smoke and debris. The scene is framed by large, bold, stylized text "G-G-G" on the left and "G-G-G" on the right. The background shows a rocky, mountainous landscape with a grid-like pattern on the ground.

BOOOOM





WHOA!

?!



TAK

YOU!!



ARGH!

KICK



!!



IS THAT IT?

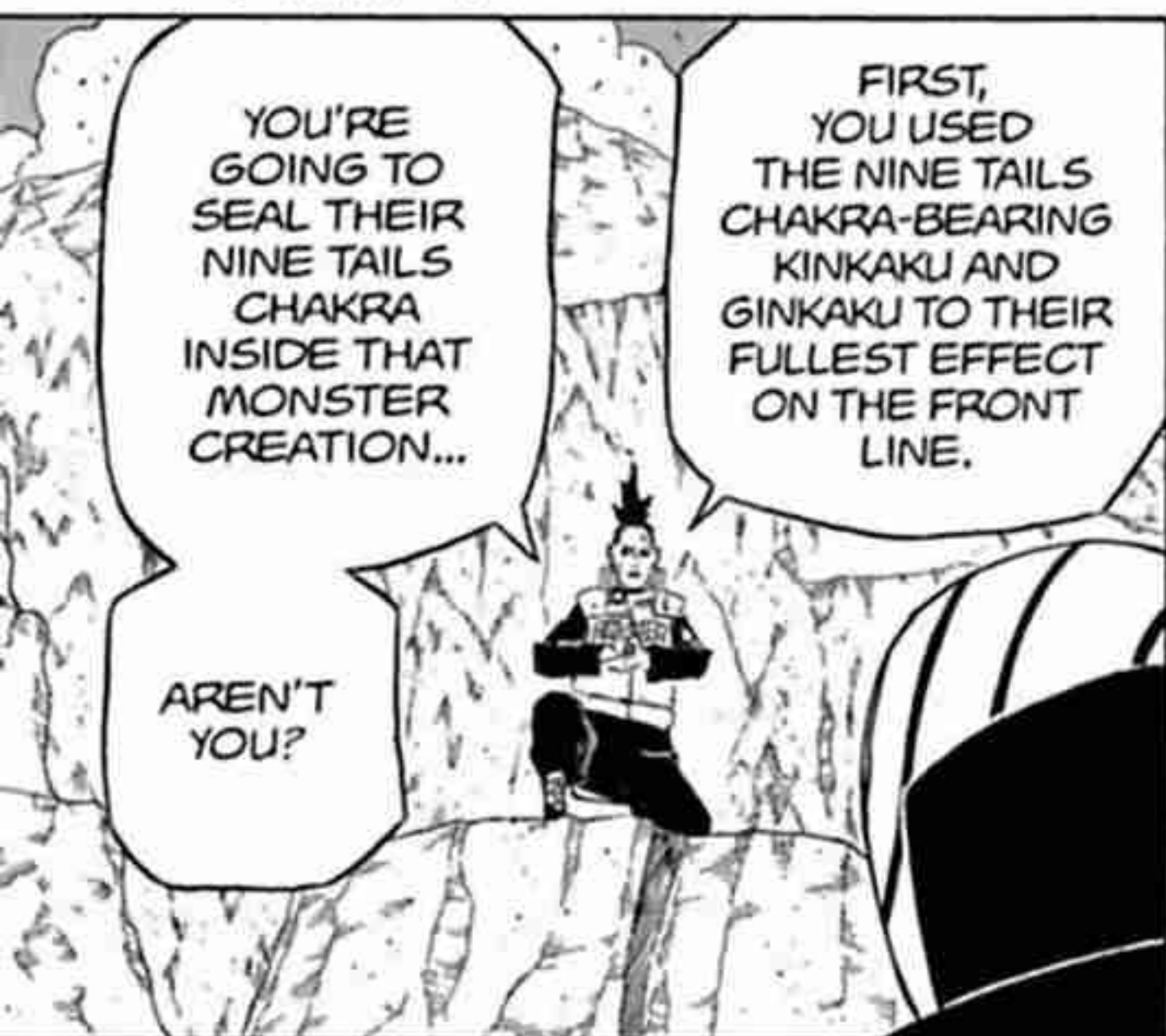
A HUMANOID MONSTER.



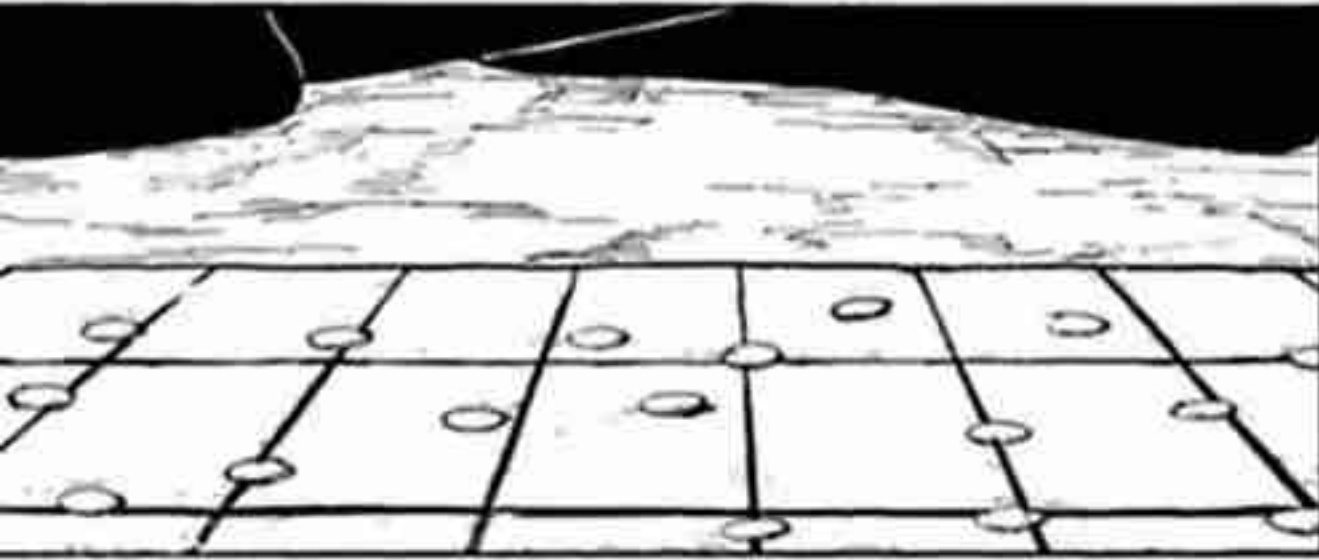
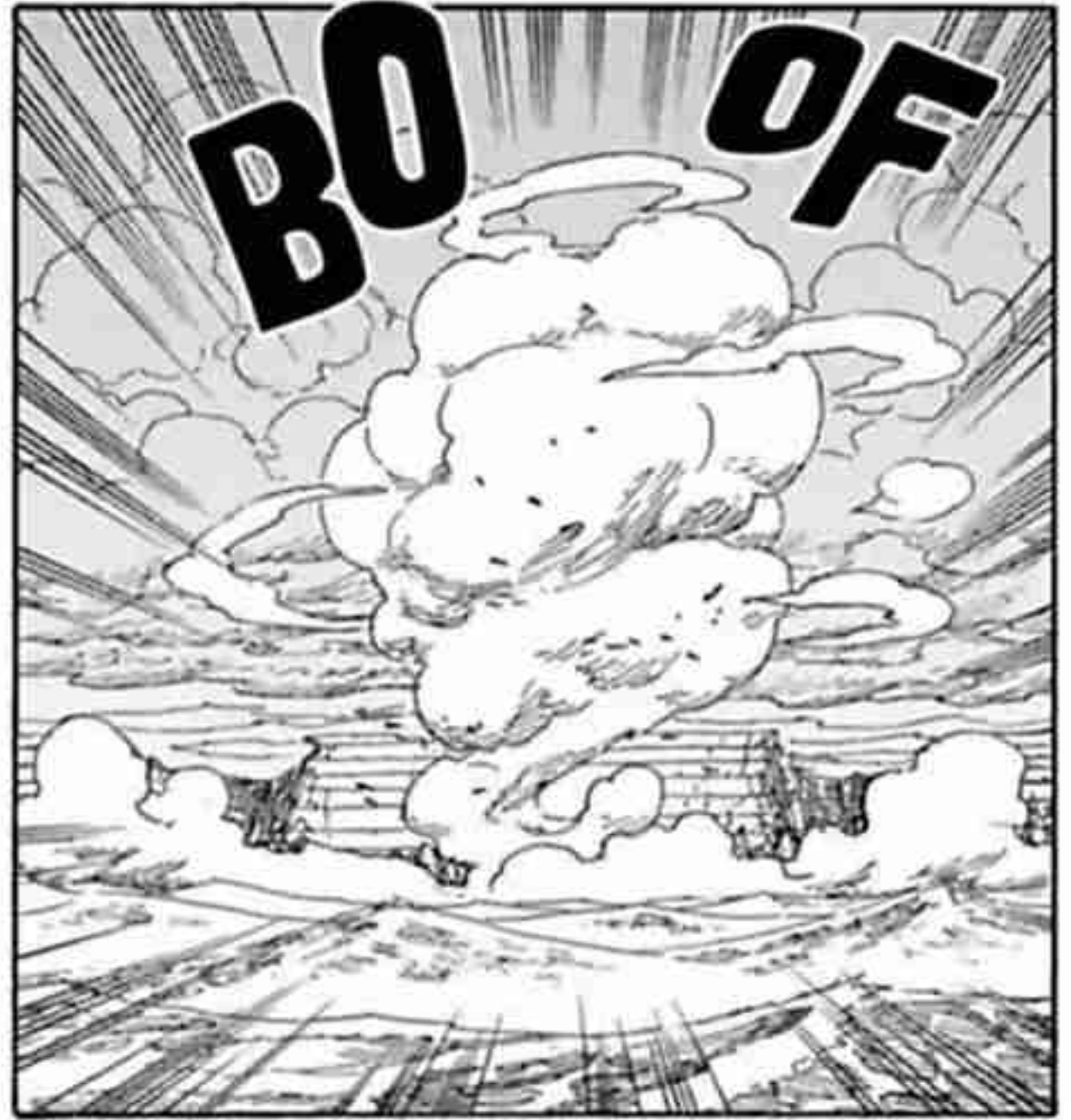
BEE'S OCTOPUS LEG DOPPELGANGER LIKELY ALSO HAS BEEN ABSORBED INTO IT.

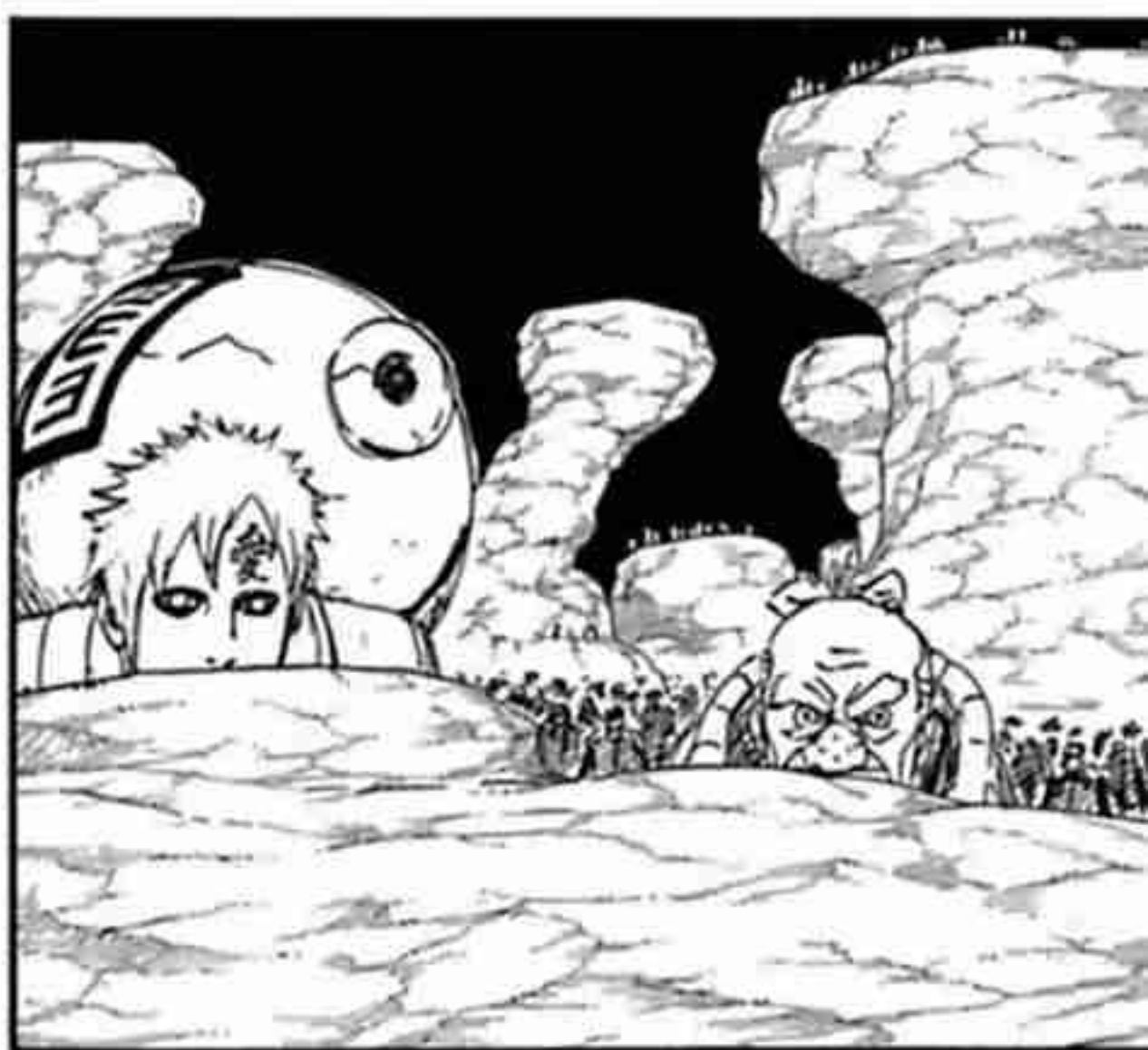
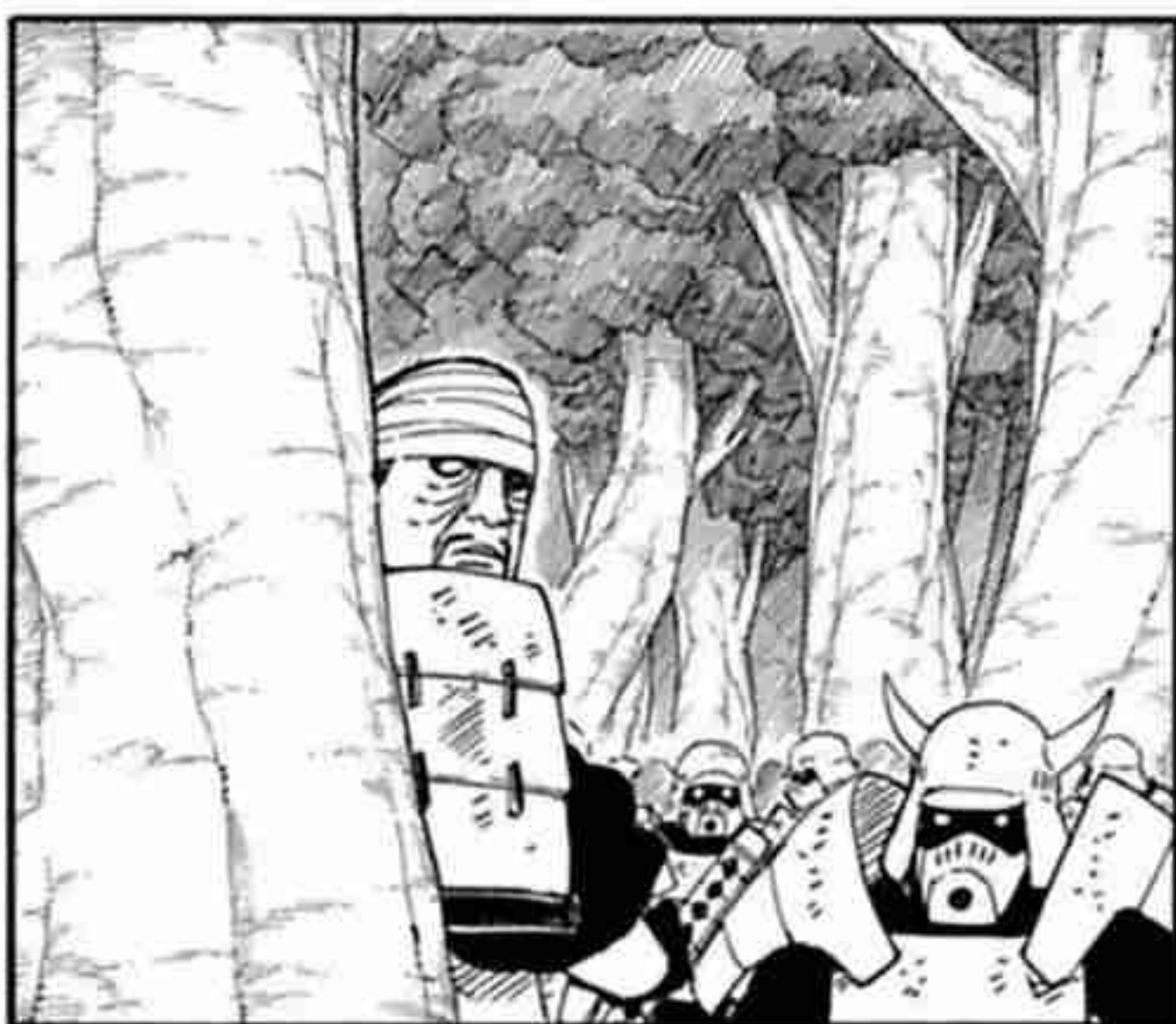
ACCORDING TO INTEL FROM SUNA'S KAZEKAGE, MADARA SEALS THE JINCHŪRIKI POWER INSIDE A GIANT HUMANOID STATUE, USED FOR THE RITUAL.

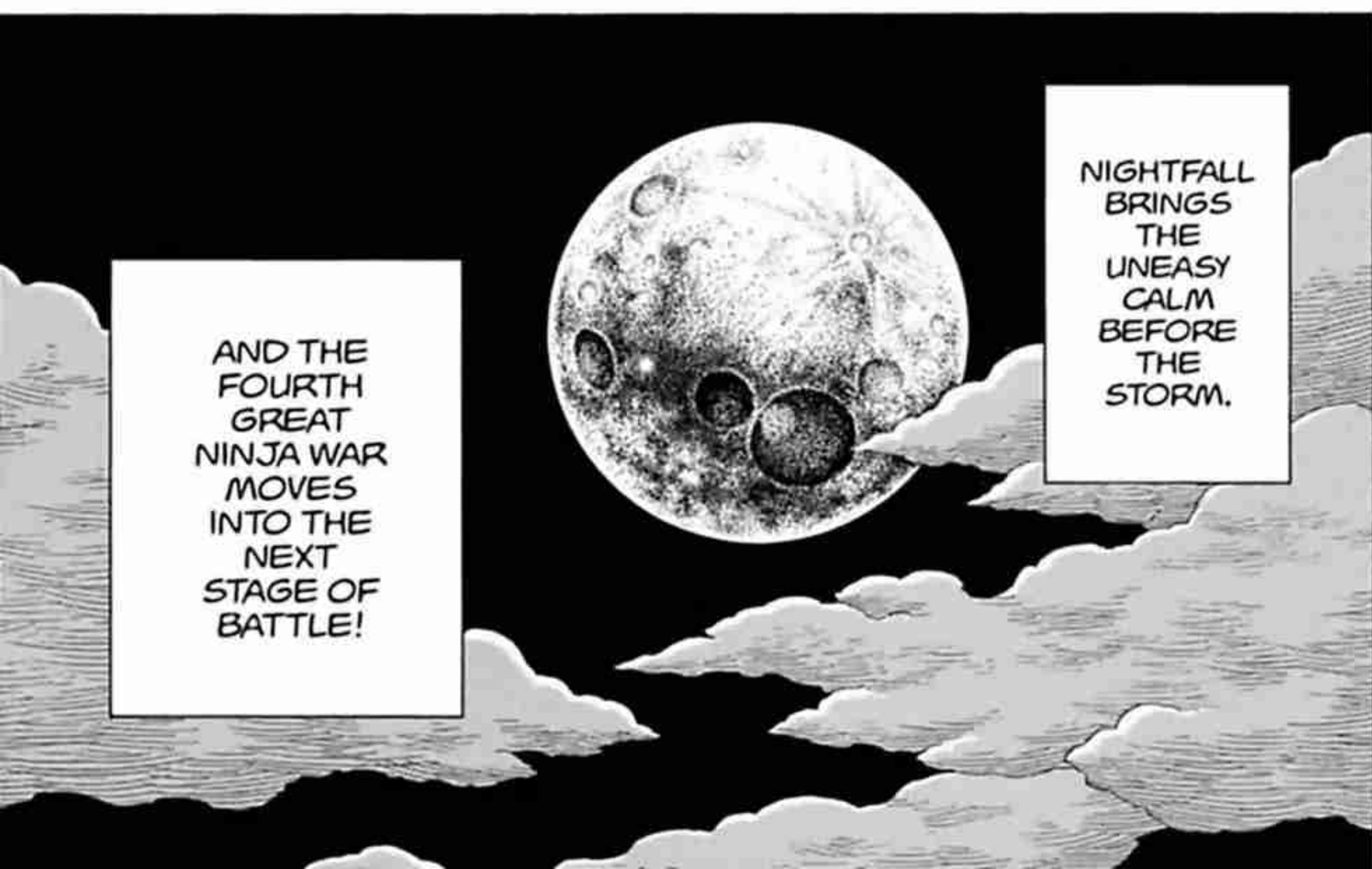
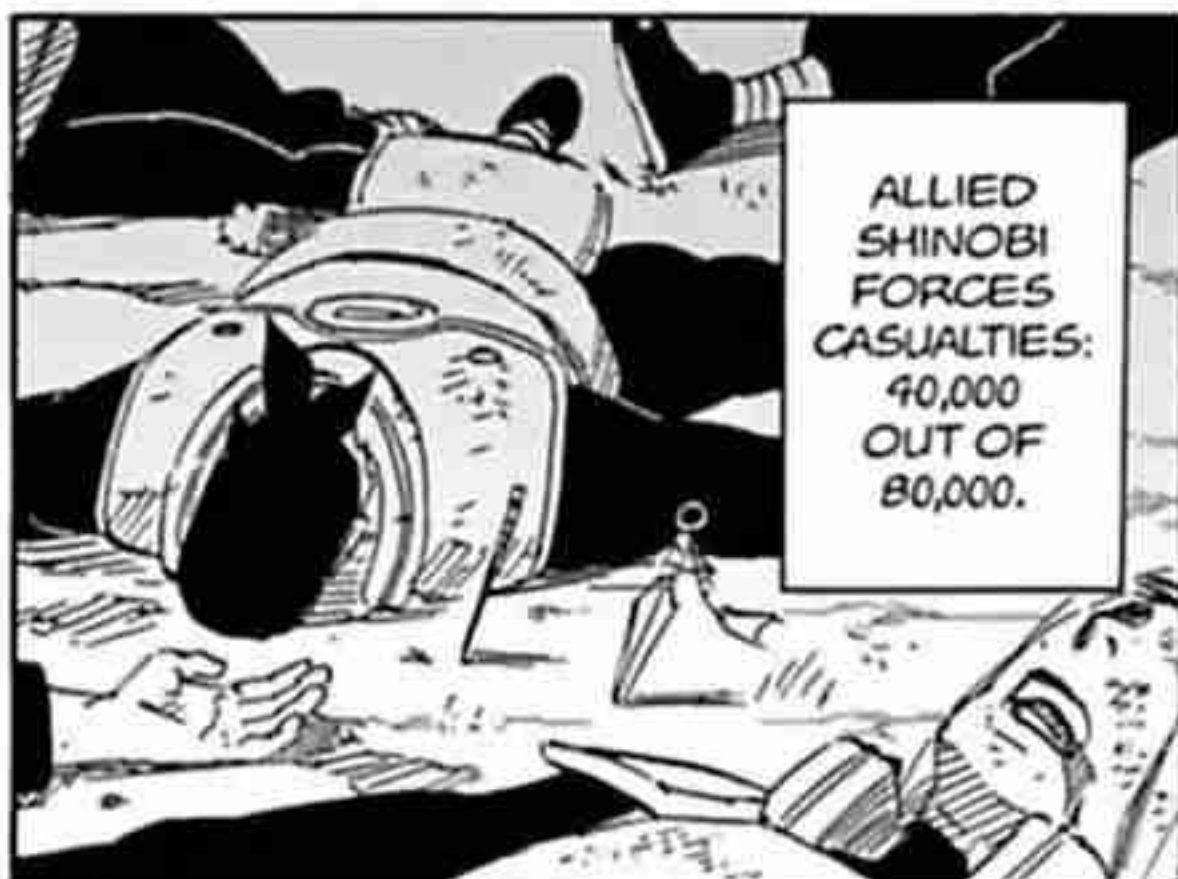
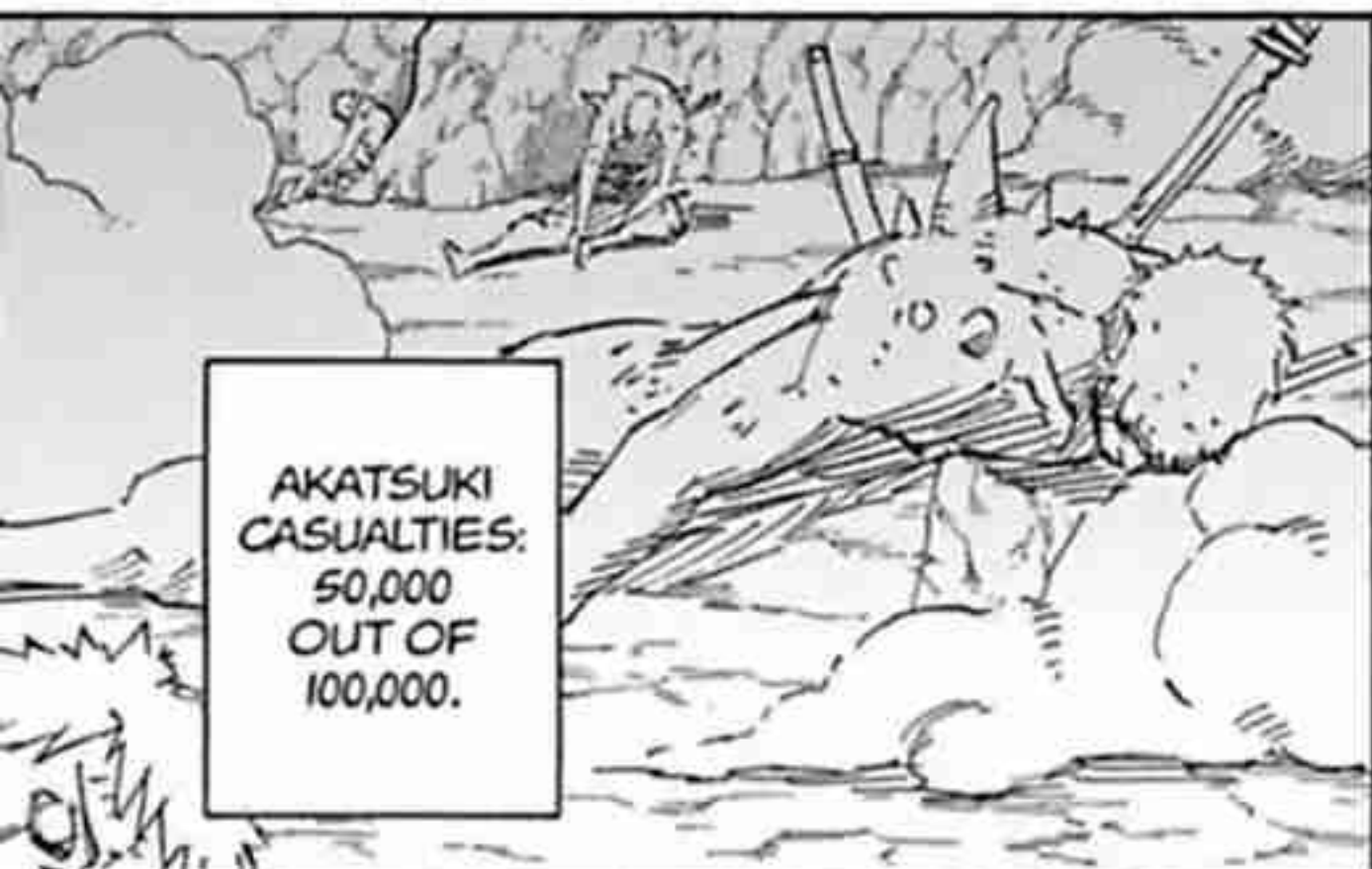








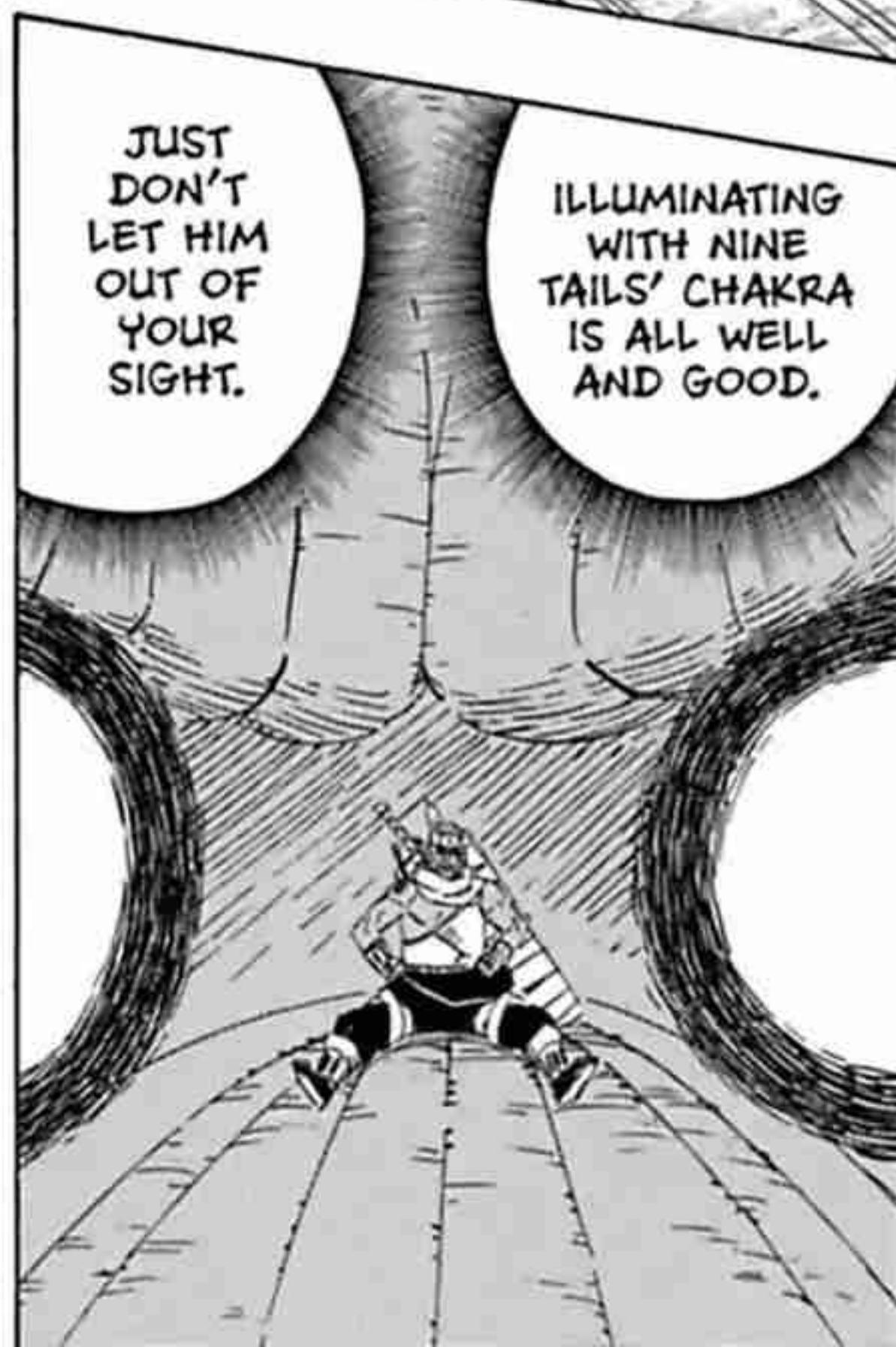
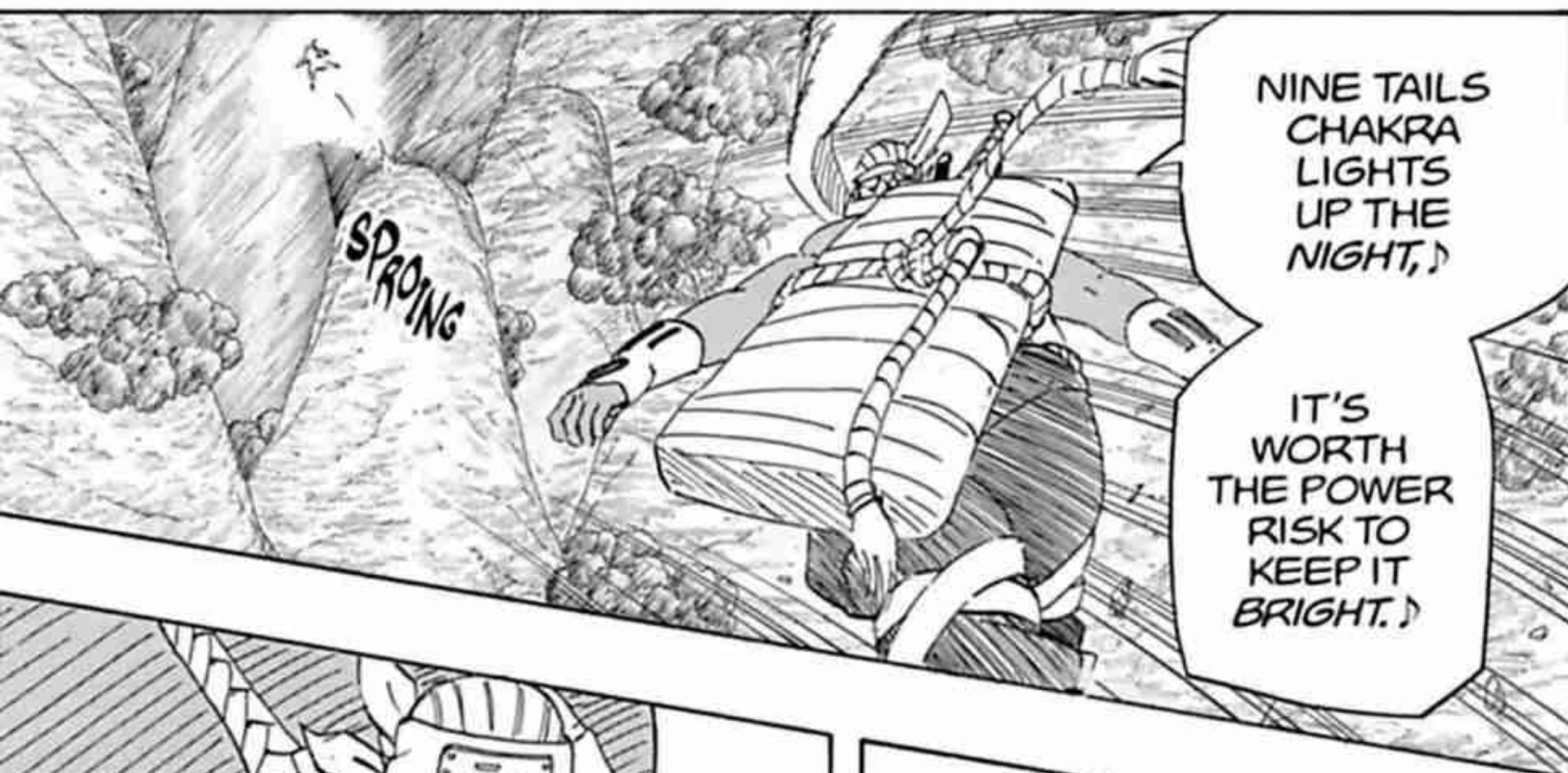




NARUTO



Number 538: Cross-Examination



 Number 538:
Cross-Examination



BUT
YOU'RE
STILL
NAÏVE,
NARUTO.



I'VE BEEN
INSIDE YOU,
WATCHING
YOU,
FOR A LONG
TIME.

CUZ I'M
KINDA
BUSY
RIGHT
NOW!

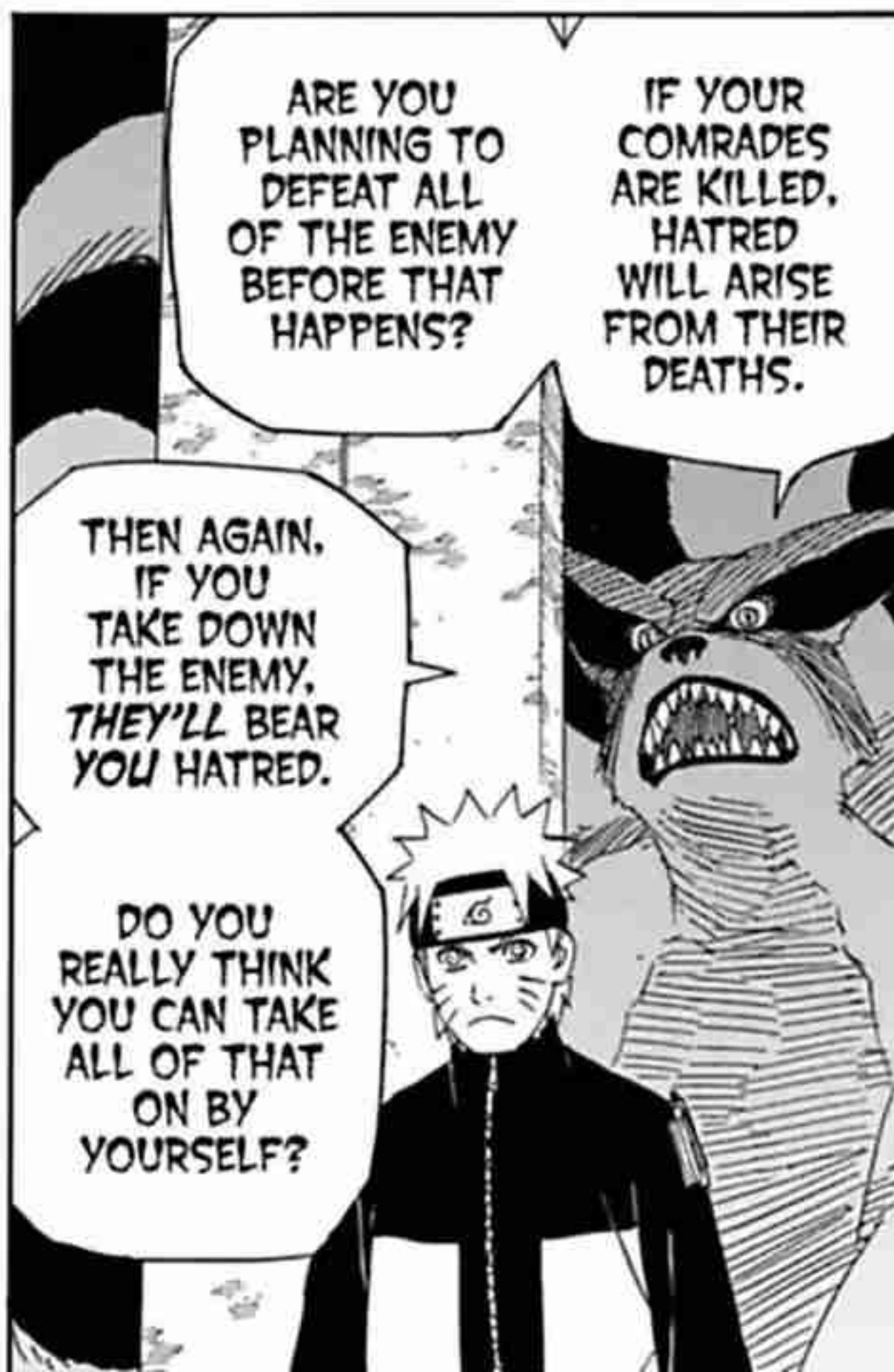
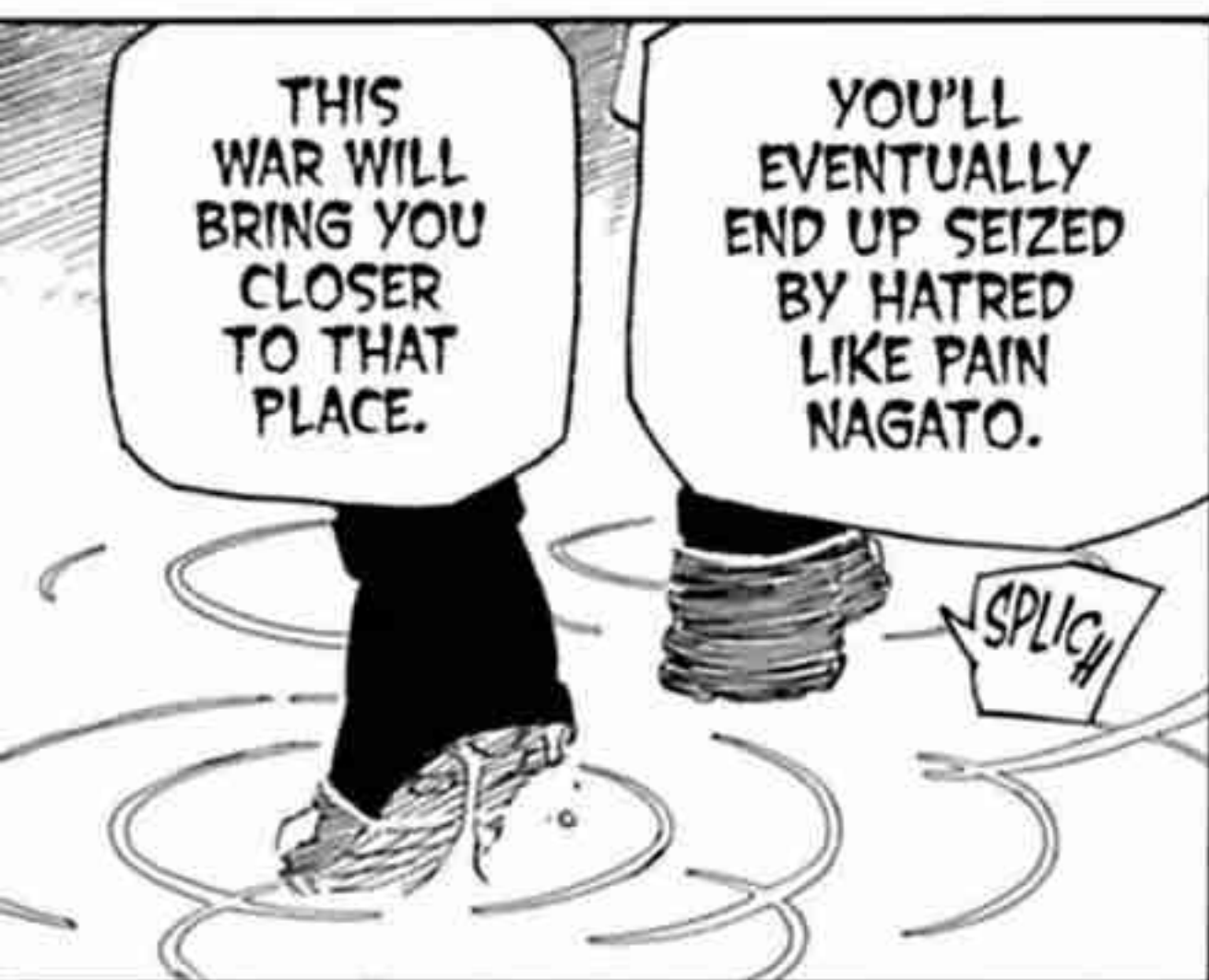
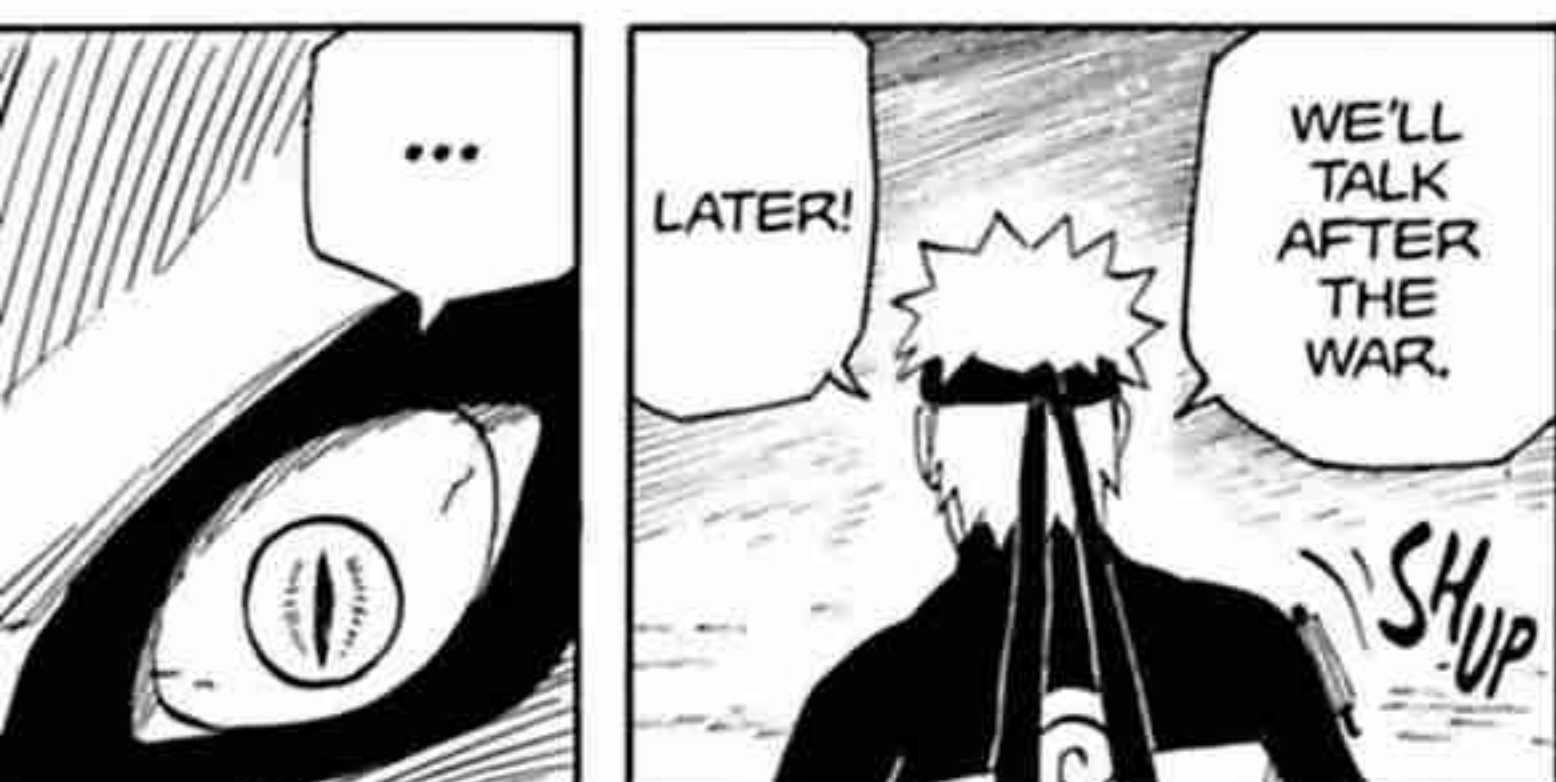
YOU
LONELY
OR
SOMETHING?

FSH

WHAT'S
GOT YOU
TALKING
TO ME?

YOU
NEVER
SAY
ANYTHING
TO ME
UNLESS
I MAKE
YOU!

HEY,
YOU'RE
GETTING
POWERFUL
AGAIN USING
MY CHAKRA,
HUNH?







CAN YOU
REALLY
TAKE ON
AND ERASE
EVERYONE'S
HATRED?!

YOU
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
A THING!
YOU'RE A
FOOL!!



I BET THERE
ARE A LOT OF
CASUALTIES
ALREADY. AND
THE RESULT-
ING HATRED
IN SPADES,
AS WELL!



THE
WAR'S
ALREADY
STARTED.



HAVE YOU
EVER BEEN
ABLE TO DO
ANYTHING
FOR HIM?

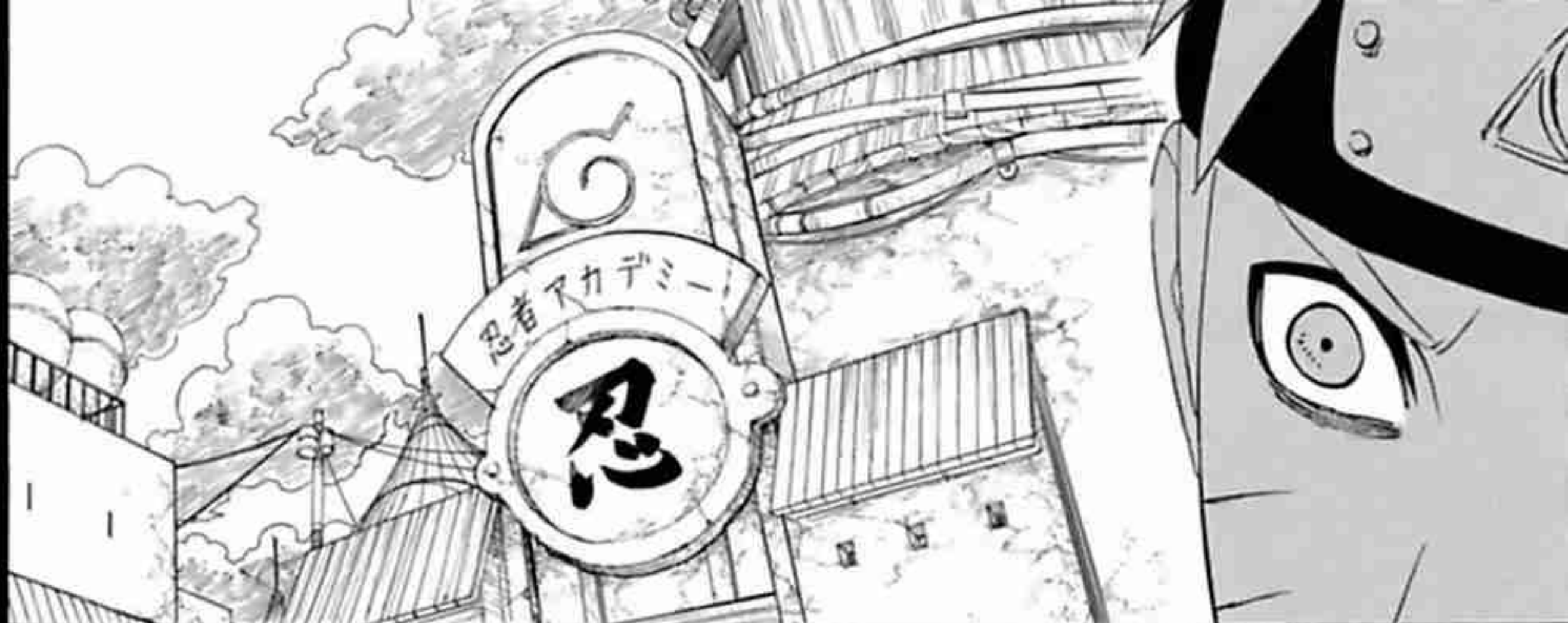
YOUR FORMER
TEAMMATE,
SASUKE, HAS
BEEN GRIPPED
BY HATRED
FOR A LONG
TIME.



THAT'S RIGHT,
YOU'VE KNOWN
IT EVER SINCE
THAT DAY.

SINCE
THAT
DAY...





(NINJA ACADEMY)





EVEN OUR
HOKAGE
HAVE
PARTICIPATED
IN SUCH
DRILLS.

SHUP



I DON'T
REALLY
WANT TO
FIGHT MY
FRIEND.

WHAT
IS IT?

UM,
MASTER?

THIS
IS NOT
SIMPLY
A FIGHT.

THIS IS
TRADITIONAL
SHINOBI
HAND-TO-HAND
COMBAT!



HE'LL
NEVER
MAKE
CHŪNIN.

HE REALLY
HAS NO
MOTIVATION!

NO.
THAT'S NOT
NECESSARILY
TRUE.
PEOPLE CAN
CHANGE
OVER A
LIFETIME.

WHOA,
WHAT'S
WITH YOU?
SO
TOUCHY!



YOU CAN
MOVE ON
TO THE
NEXT PAIR.

UM. MASTER,
YOU CAN JUST
PUT DOWN
THAT I WENT
OUT-OF-
BOUNDS.

SIGH.

WUMP



AND
WE'LL
MOVE
ON.

FINE.
SHIKAMARU,
CHOJI,
GIVE THE
UNISON
SIGN...



INO-CHAN,
YOU KNOW
THOSE
GUYS?

AND
CHOJI,
YOU'RE A
COWARD!

SHIKAMARU,
YOU'RE THE
LAZIEST
KID I'VE
EVER MET!

WELL,
OUR
PARENTS
ARE
FRIENDS.





SASUKE-KUN!!

G-GOOD LUCK, NARU...



ALL RIGHT!
I AIN'T GONNA LOSE!!!



WE SHALL NOW COMMENCE
UZUMAKI NARUTO
VS. UCHIHA SASUKE.

C'MON, IDIOT!!

WOOSH



WHATEVER, LOSER.

HOLD IT, BOTH OF YOU!!

I DON'T CARE.
I JUST WANT TO BEAT HIM UP!

TIME FOR A NEW MR. POPULAR AROUND HERE, YA KNOW!!

RRKK



NARUTO, HEY!
YOU NEED TO MAKE THE SPAR SIGN!

THAT'S ETIQUETTE!



FIRST, YOU ALWAYS FACE AND MAKE THIS ONE-HANDED SIGN TOWARD YOUR OPPONENT BEFORE STARTING TO SPAR.

THIS GESTURE SYMBOLIZES HALF OF THE TWO-HANDED SIGNS NEEDED TO ACTIVATE JUTSU AND INDICATES ONE'S WILL TO FIGHT! THIS IS THE SPAR SIGN.



YOU MIGHT THINK IT'S STUFFY TO BE FORMAL BUT HERE AT THE ACADEMY WE HAVE RESPECT FOR TRADITION!

HAND-TO-HAND IS A VERY OLD TRADITIONAL DRILL.



YOU EACH EXTEND FORTH THE UNISON SIGN, OVERLAP THEM, AND LOCK YOUR FINGERS AROUND EACH OTHER'S.

THE UNISON SIGN INDICATES THAT YOU RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER AS COMRADES.

WHEN YOU FINISH SPARRING AND THE BOUT IS CONCLUDED...



YOU SAY THE WORD "YES" TO ME, YOU DUNCE!!

YEAH, YEAH.



IT'S THE SECOND TIME I'M EXPLAINING THIS TO YOU!!

ARE YOU LISTENING, NARUTO?!!



AND THAT COVERS ALL OF THE ETIQUETTE OF HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT!











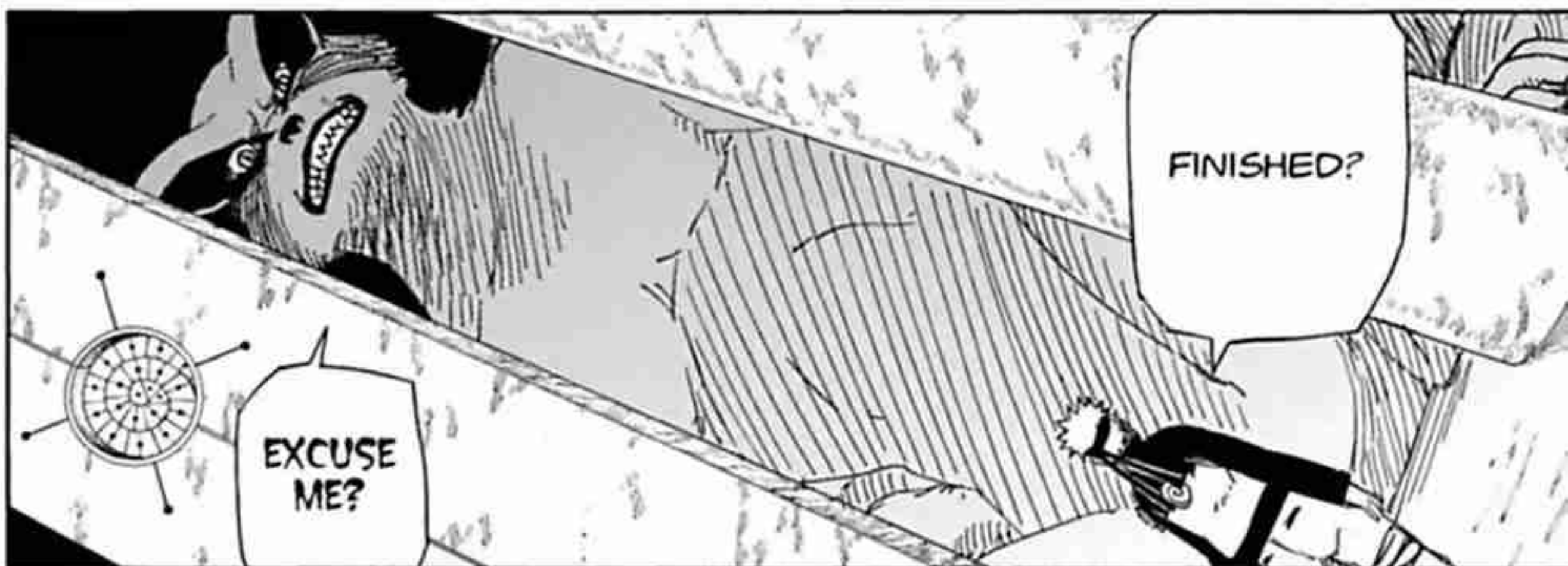
HIS
HATRED
HAS GROWN
STRONGER!

WERE
YOU ABLE
TO ERASE
HIS
HATRED?

NO,
IN FACT,
QUITE THE
OPPOSITE.



SO
WHERE
IS
SASUKE
NOW?





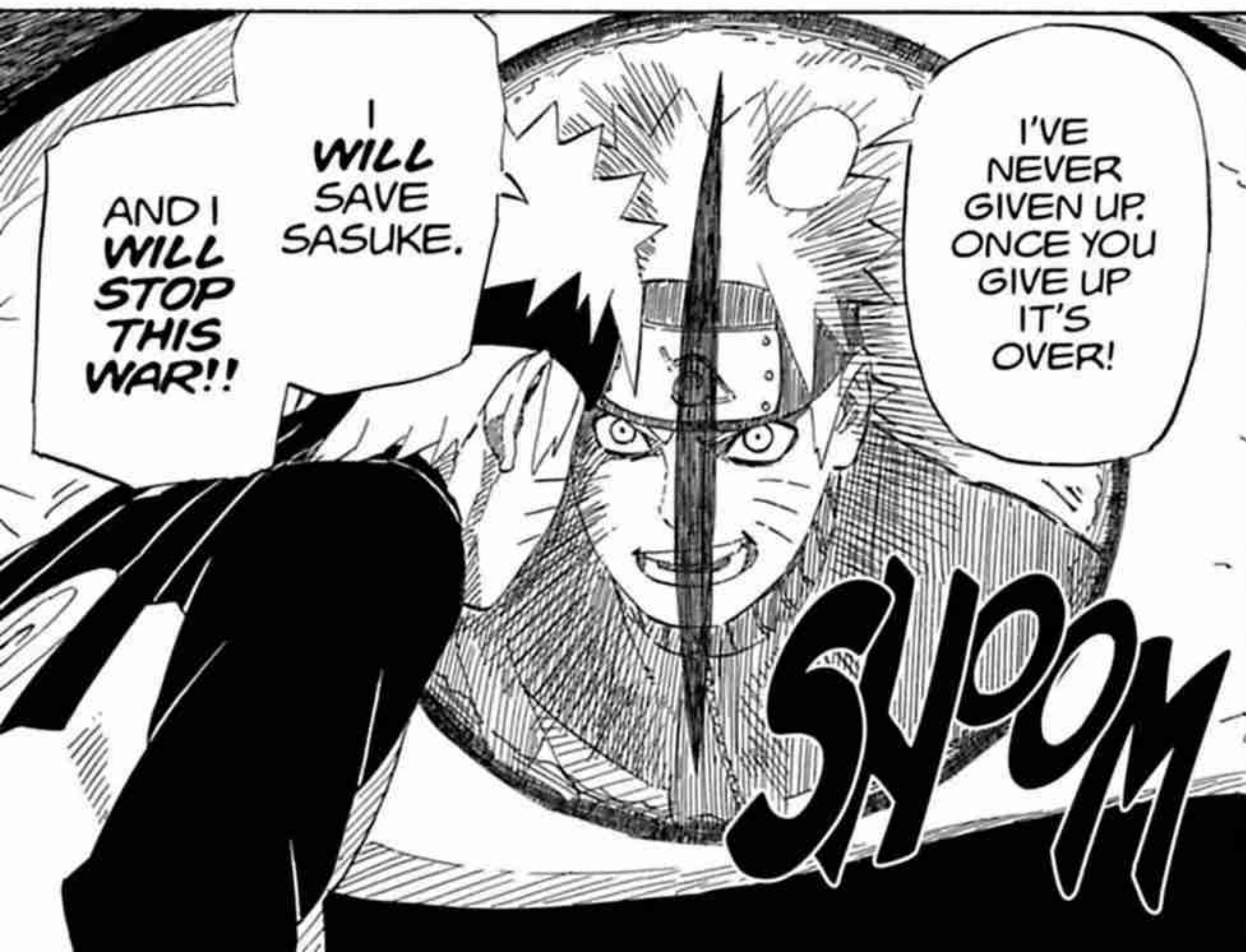
WHO ARE
YOU TO BE SO
CONFIDENT?!
YOU CAN'T HELP A
SINGLE TEAMMATE.
SASUKE IS LOST
TO YOU.



SH
UP



YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
DOESN'T
GET
WHAT'S
UP!!!



AND I
WILL
STOP
THIS
WAR!!

I
WILL
SAVE
SASUKE.

I'VE
NEVER
GIVEN UP.
ONCE YOU
GIVE UP
IT'S
OVER!

SHON





Number 539: Blood Night...!!



ONE
MORE
ROUND!!



WHY DON'T YOU
PAY ME SOME
RENT AND LEND
ME YOUR CHAKRA?!

I'VE BEEN
LETTING YOU
LIVE IN MY
BODY ALL
THIS TIME,
SO...



...



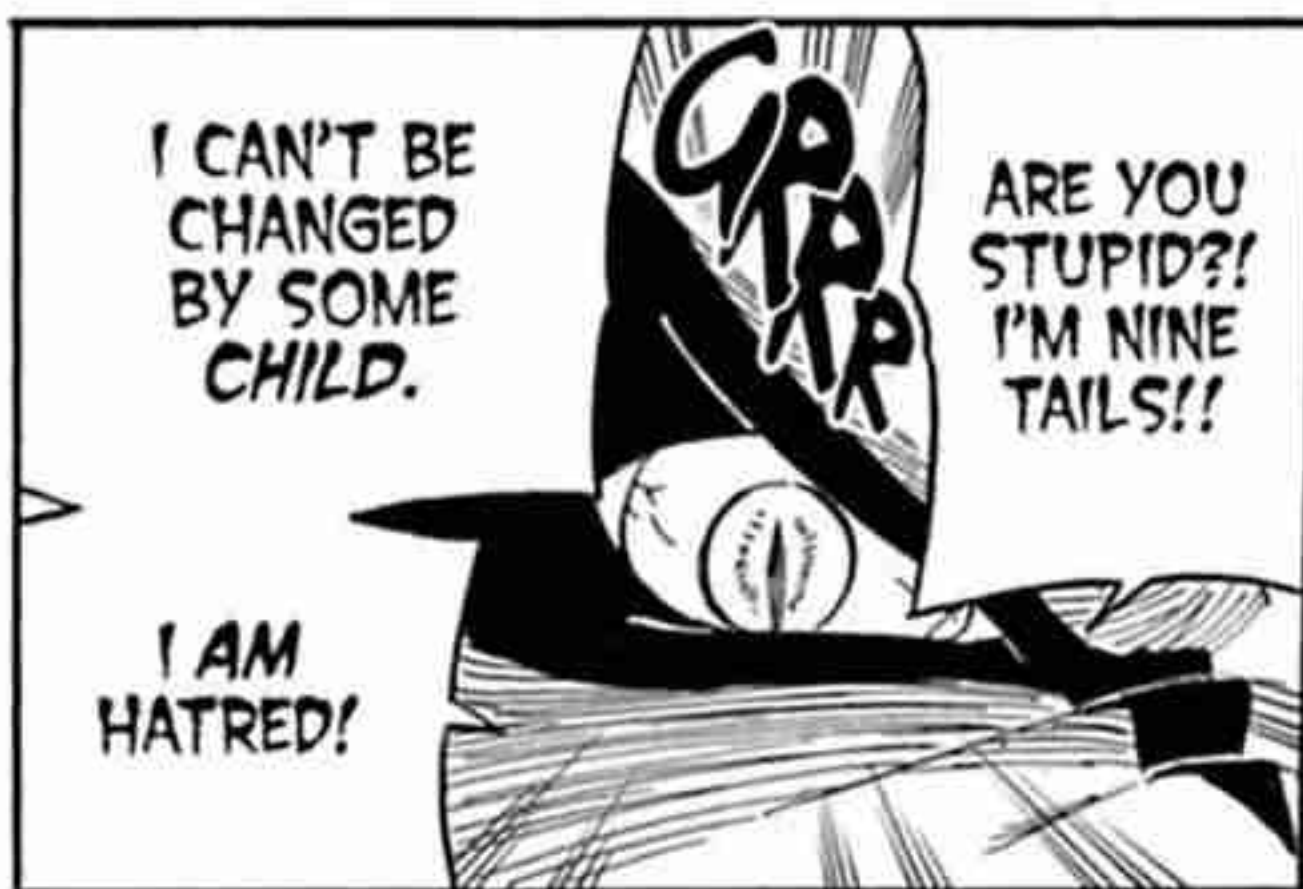
?

HEY,
YA KNOW,
NINE
TAILS.



...THINKS
IT'S
GROWN,
DOES IT?

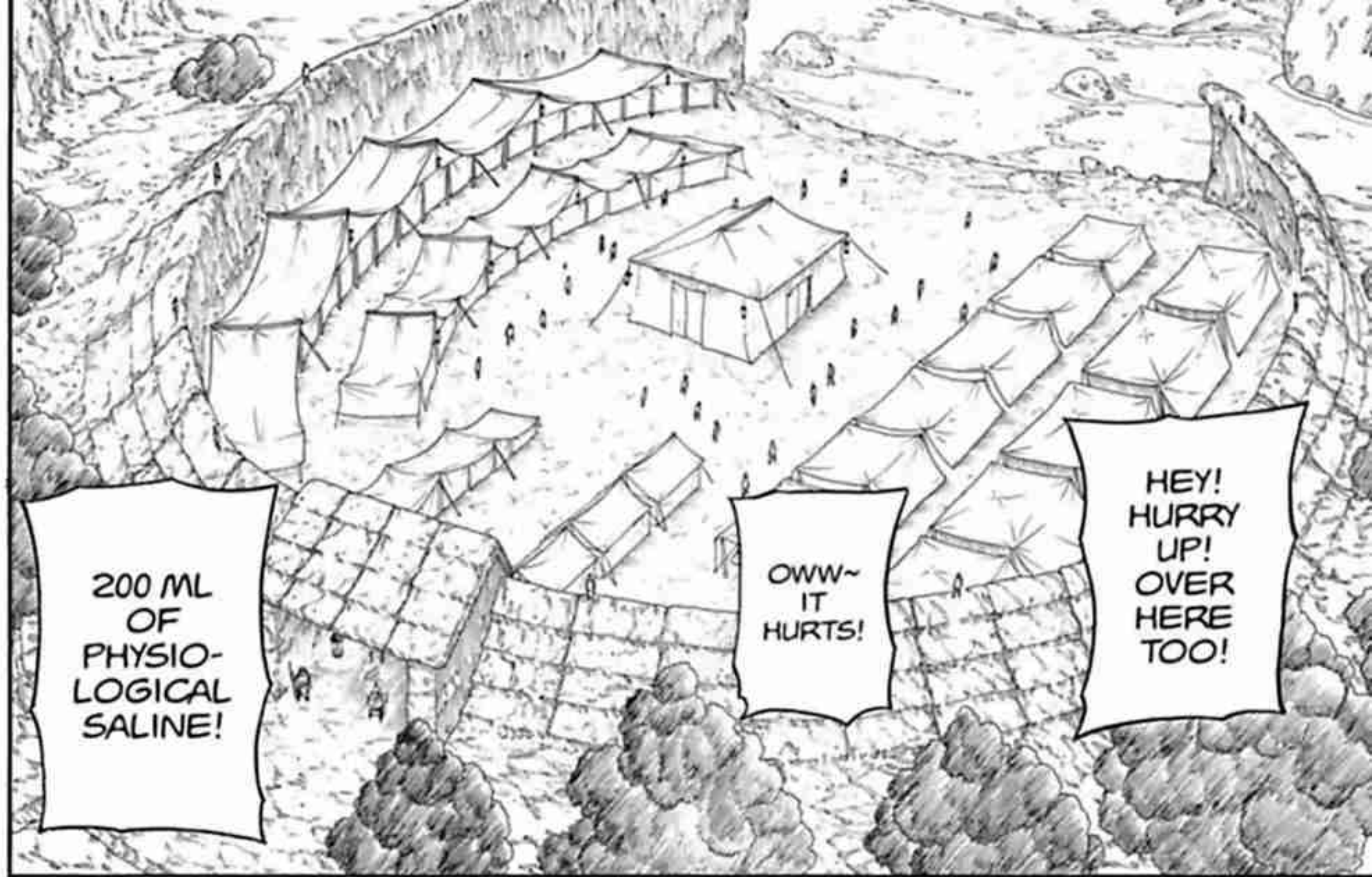
HUMPH,
THE
CHILD...



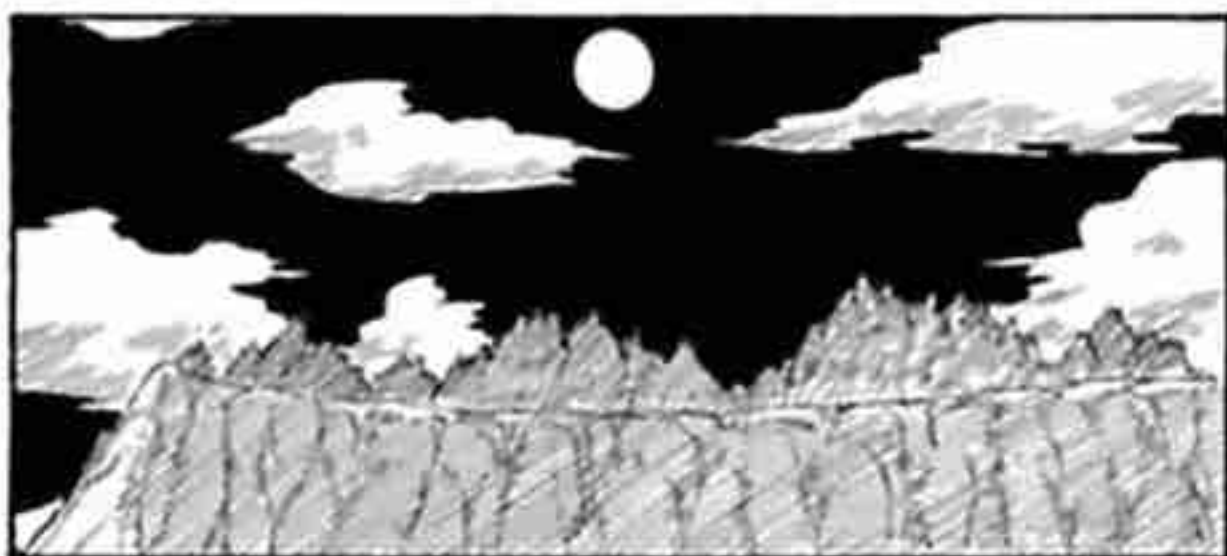






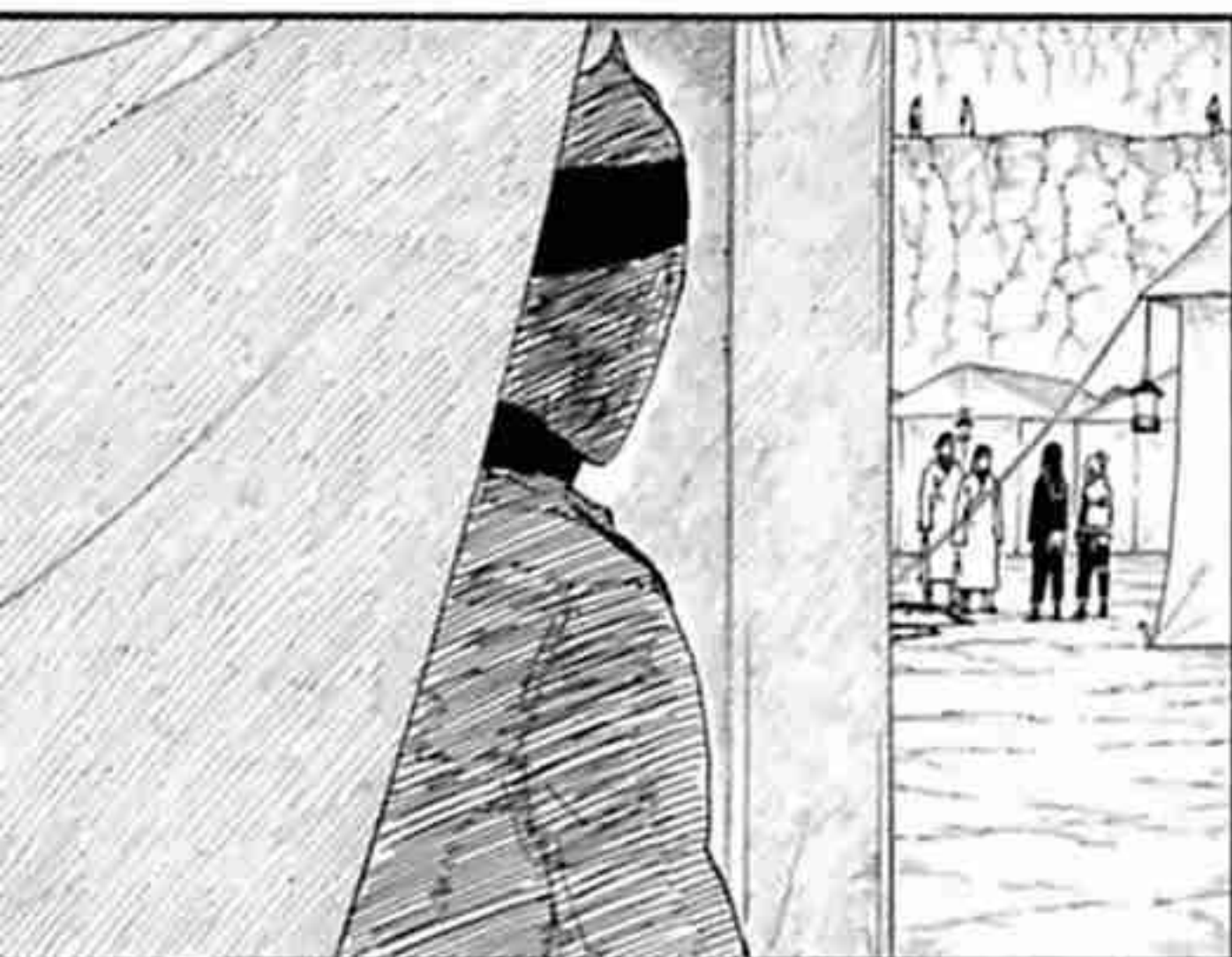


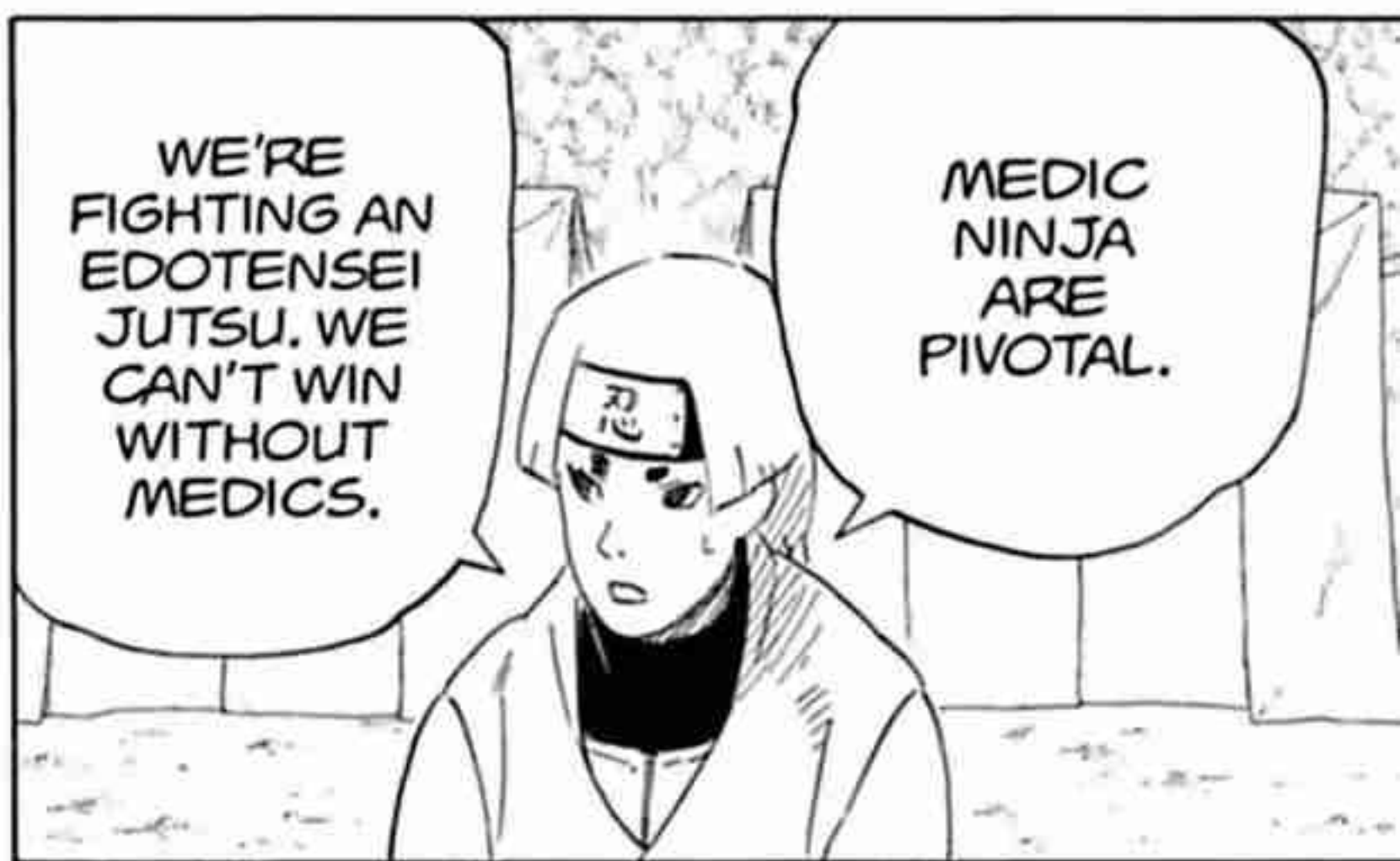


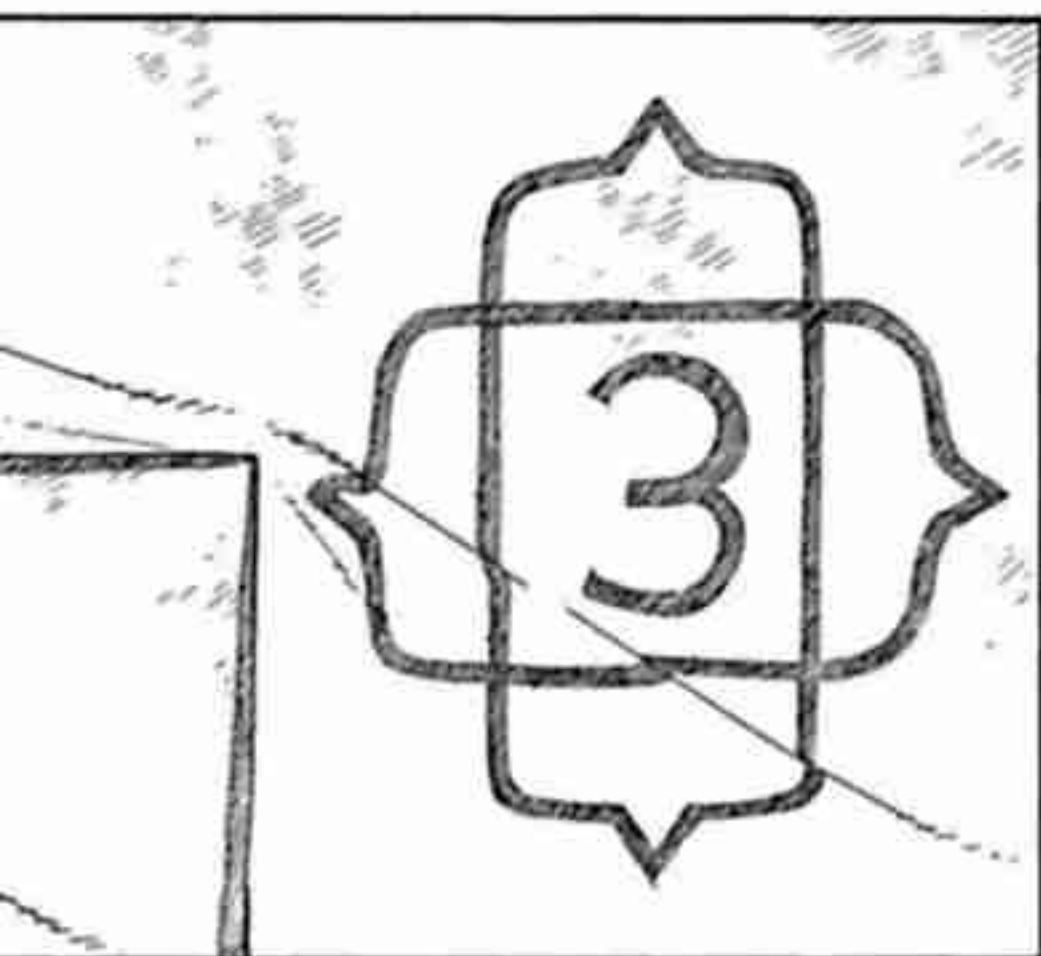
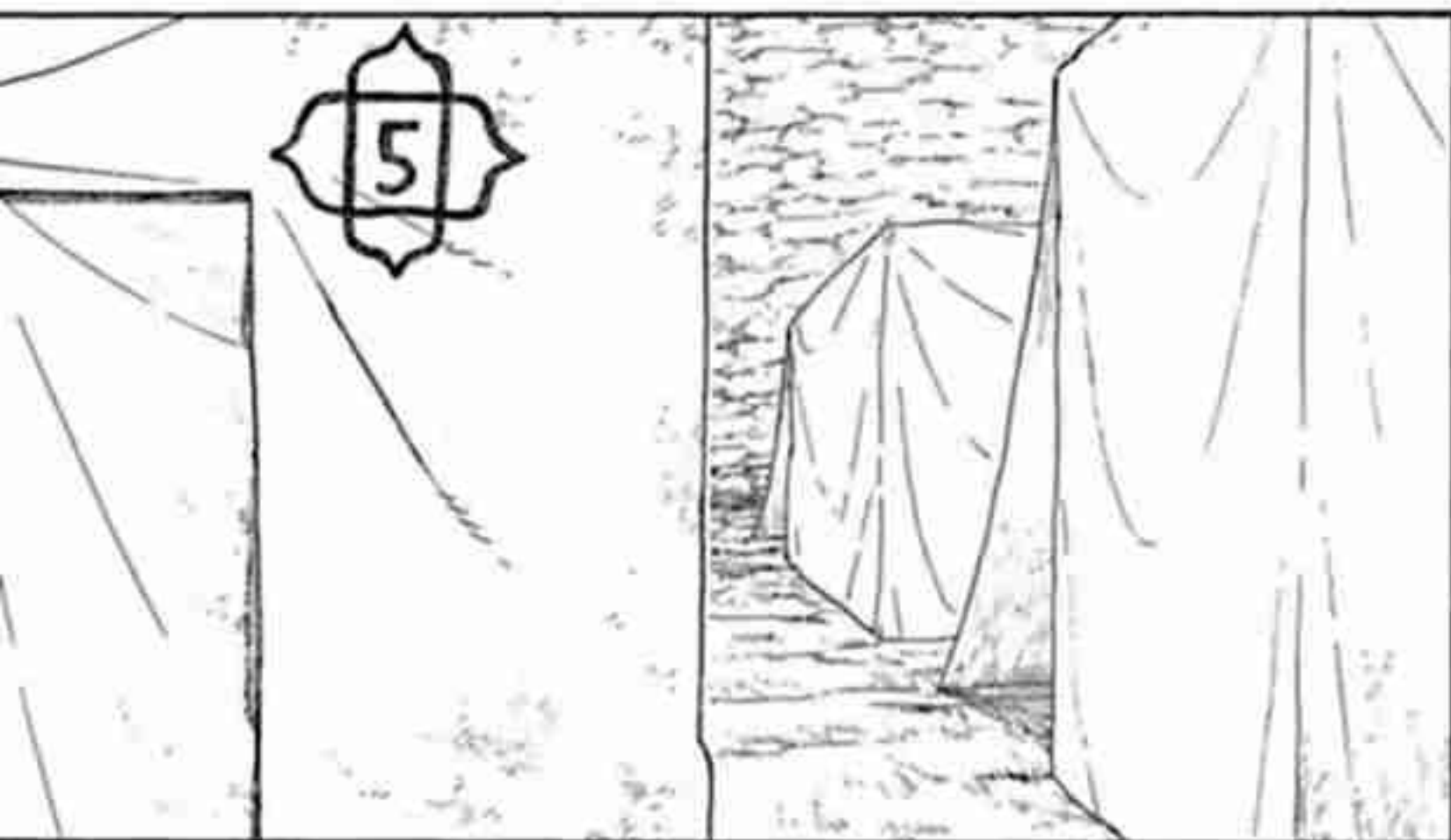


















NARUTO





Number
540:



ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT?

TAP

Madara's
Scheme!!

NEJI!



...

WE
DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
WHO
WE'RE
FIGHTING.

IT'S
EASY
TO GET
DISCOUR-
AGED.

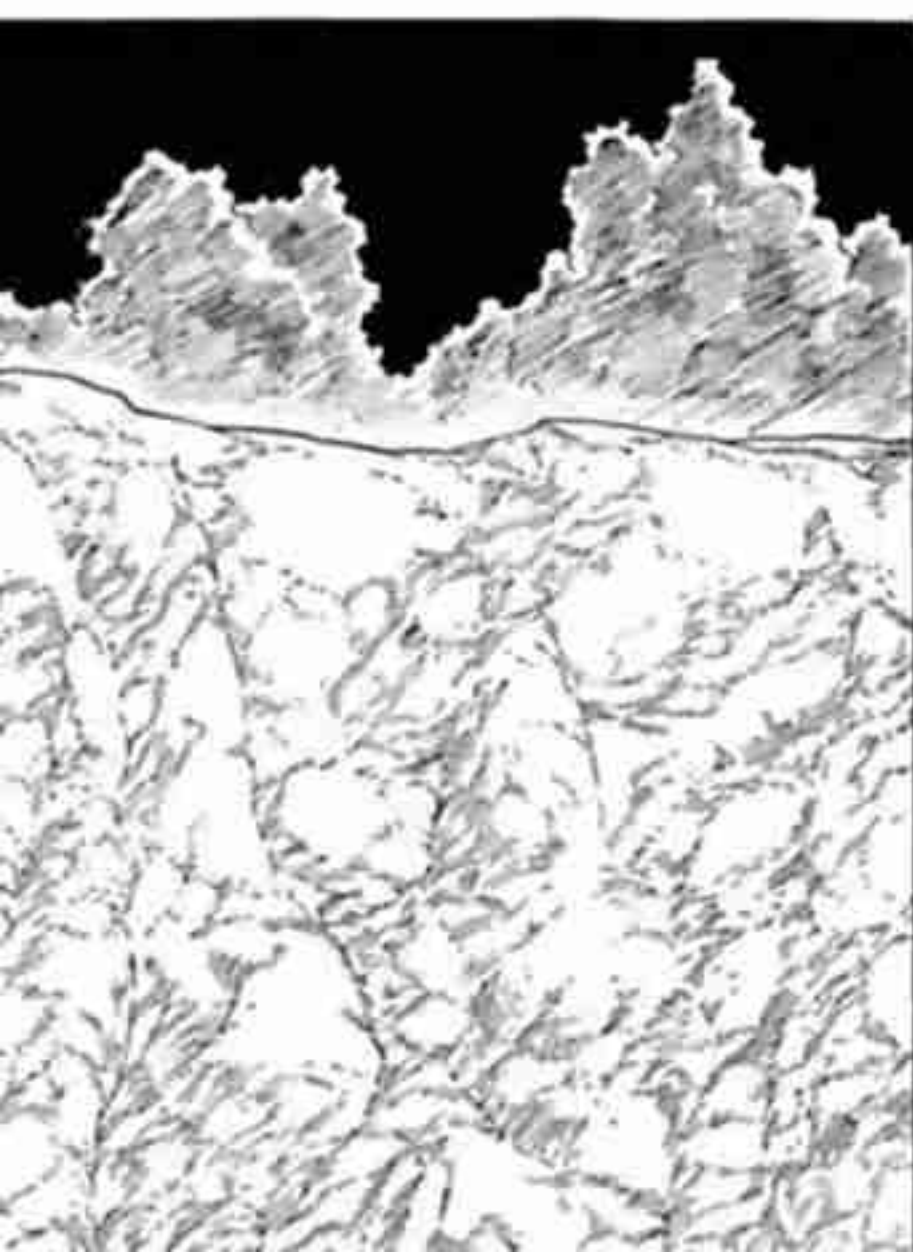


YUP.



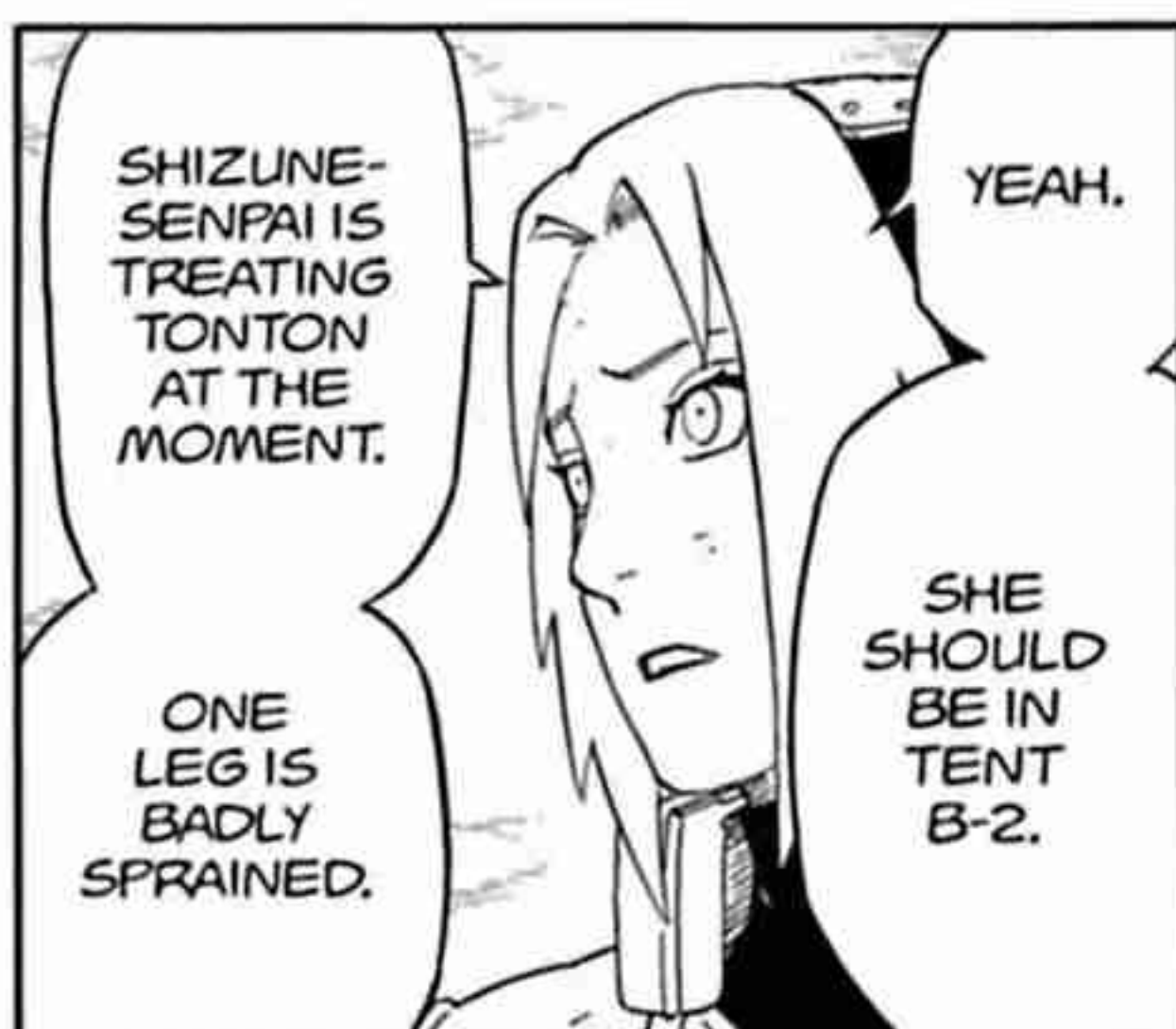
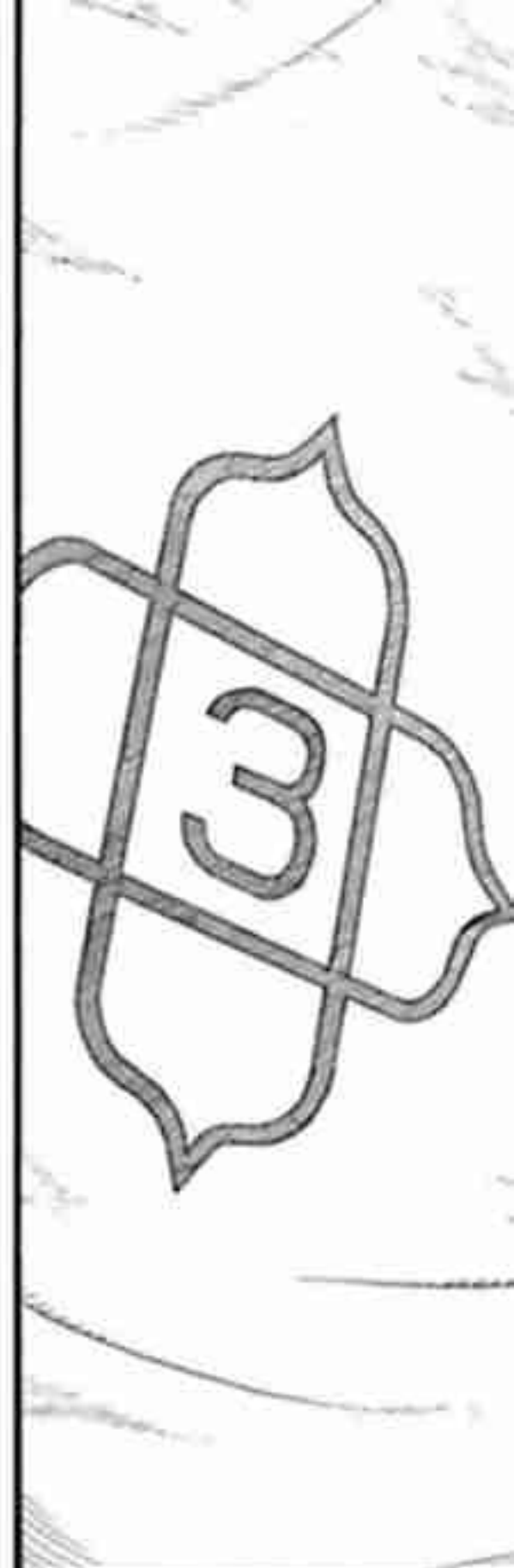
YEAH.
UTMOST
CAUTION
...

...













PIGS
DON'T
HAVE
HANDS
!!



H-HOW'D
YOU
KNOW?!



SHE
TRICKED
ME!

TONTON
IS A PIG?



I THINK
SO.
TONTON
CAN
STILL
WEAVE
HAND
SIGNS
FOR SURE!

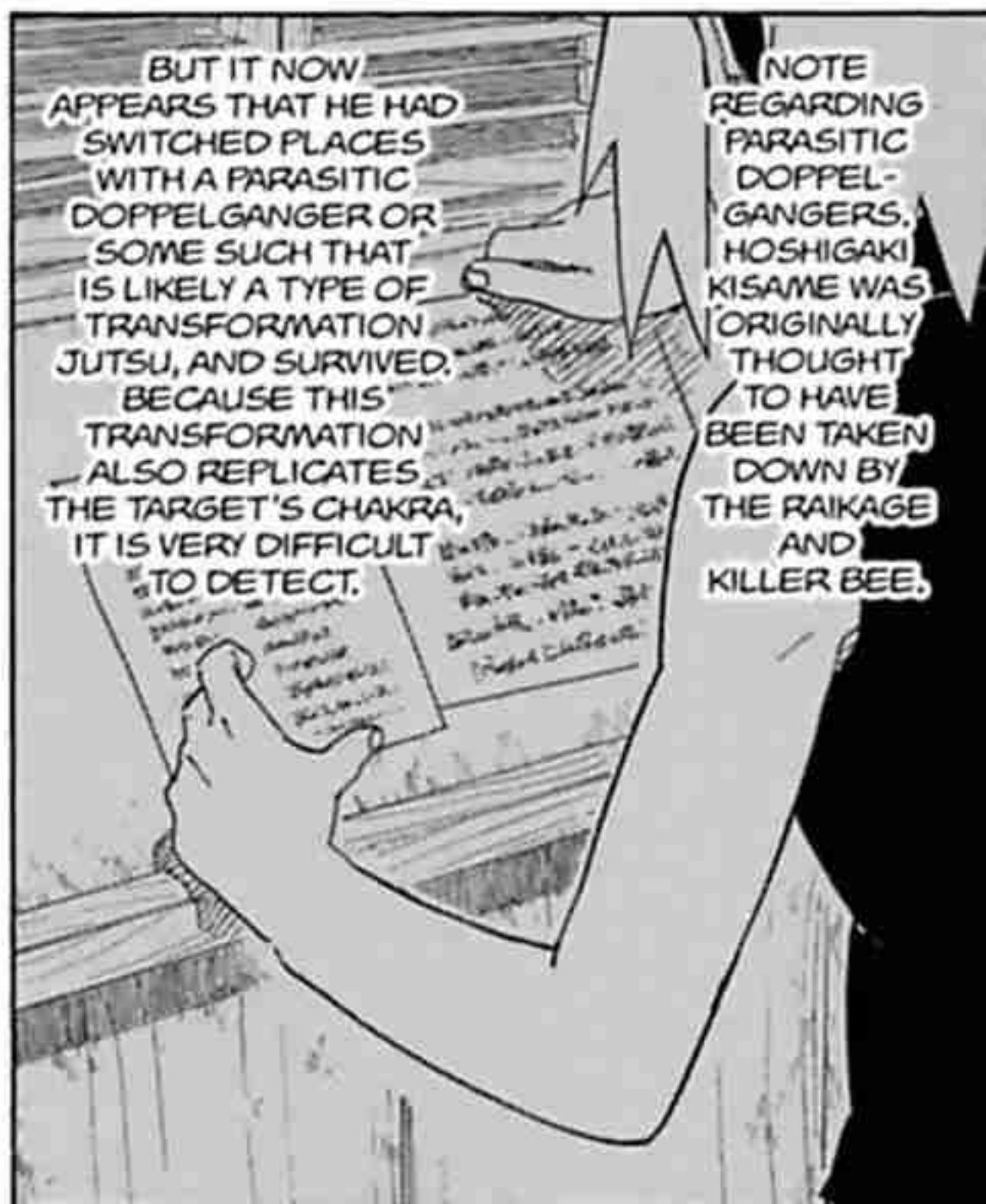


YOU'RE
THE
MUR-
DERER?!

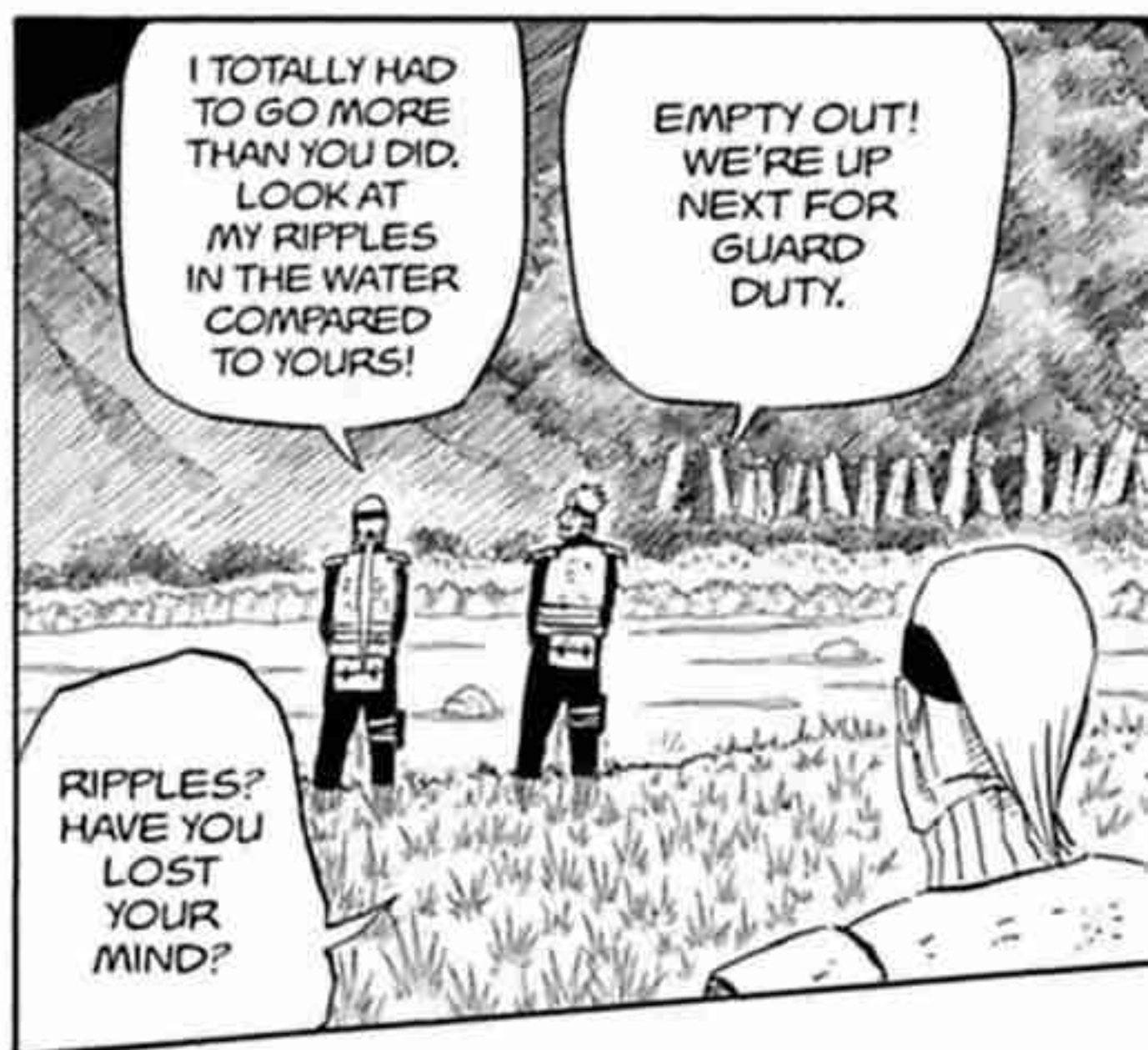


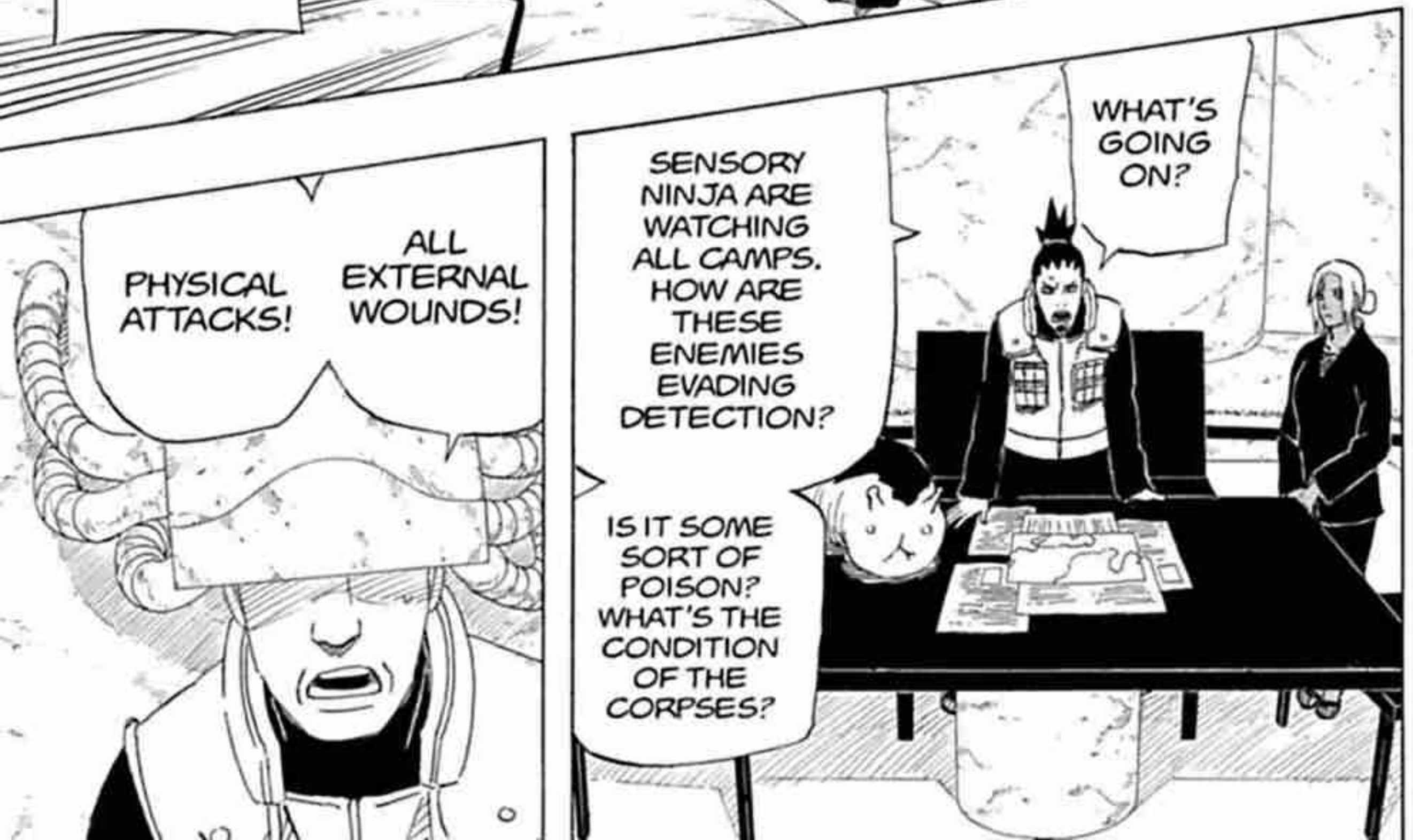
ARGH
!!!

?!















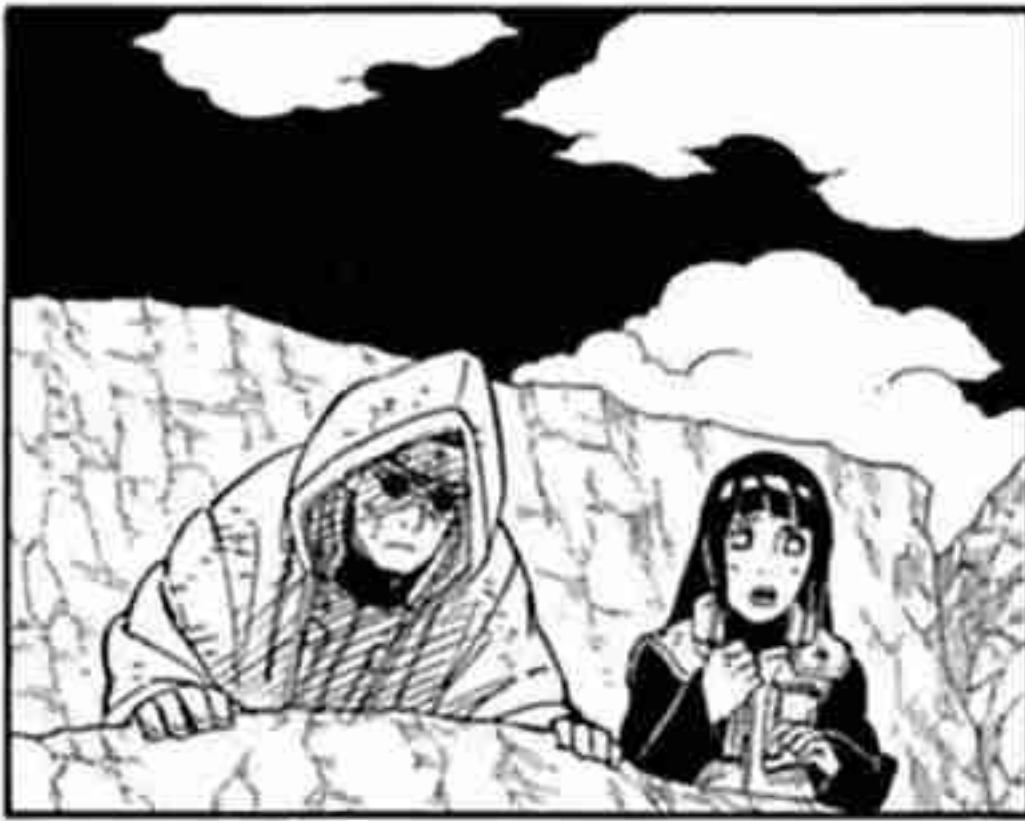
 Number 541: Raikage vs. Naruto?!



NARUTO











WHOA,
THIS PUNCH.
IT'S SUPER-
SOLID.
THAT COULD
HURT
SOMEBODY!!

SKREEECH

I'LL
STOP
THIS
WAR!!

GRANNY
TSUNADE,
YOU
KNOW
ME!!

SO
LET
ME
GO!!

THO OM

I'VE BEEN
ORDERED
TO STOP
YOU.

EVEN THE
HOKAGE
CANNOT ACT
INDEPENDENTLY
ON THIS
ONE!

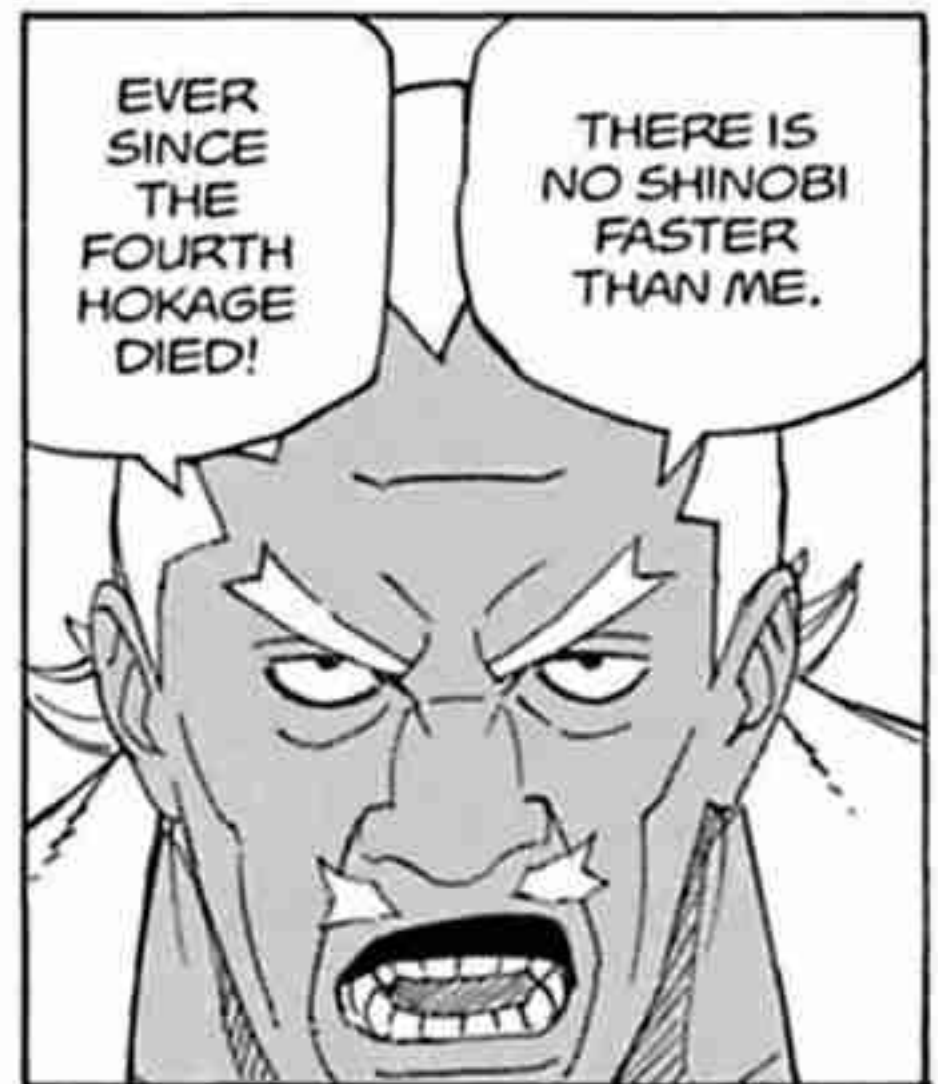
I'M PART
OF THE
ALLIED
SHINOBI
FORCES
RIGHT
NOW.

GRANNY.

...

...





HE WAS
READY TO
DIE FOR
HIS SON.



HE
SEALED
HALF OF
THE NINE
TAILS'
CHAKRA
INSIDE
HIMSELF.



?!



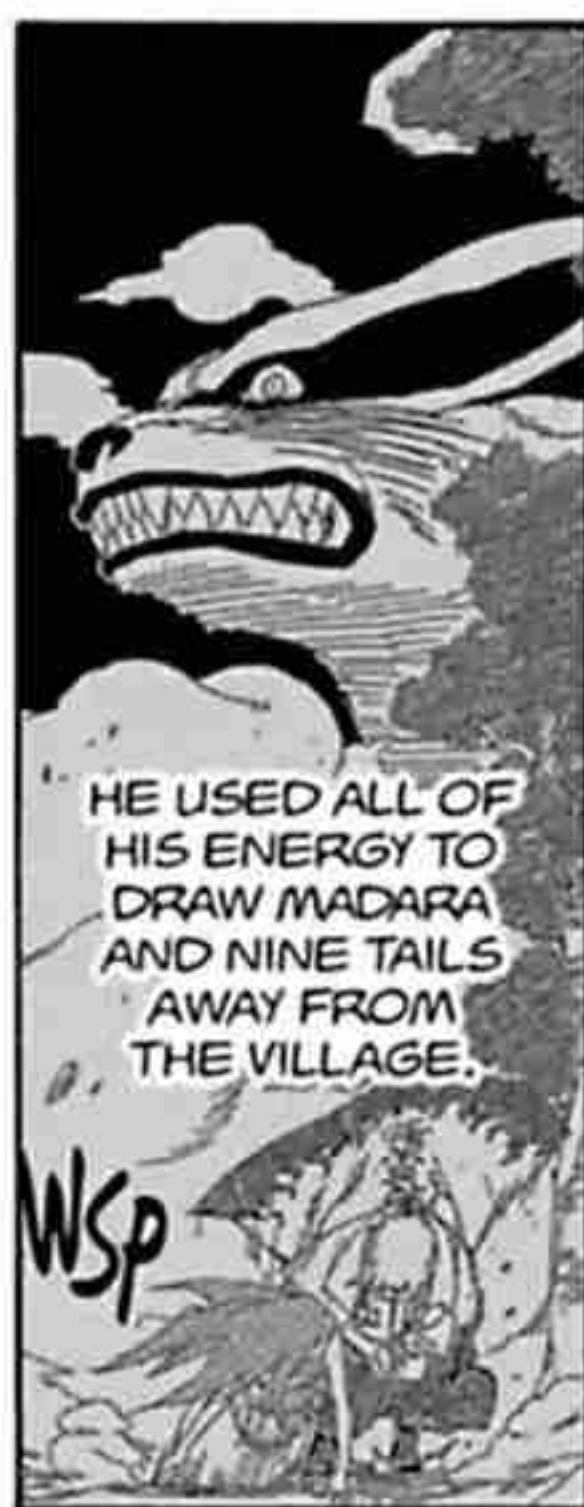
...?



KNOW
WHAT?
DON'T
SPEAK
OF MY
FATHER.



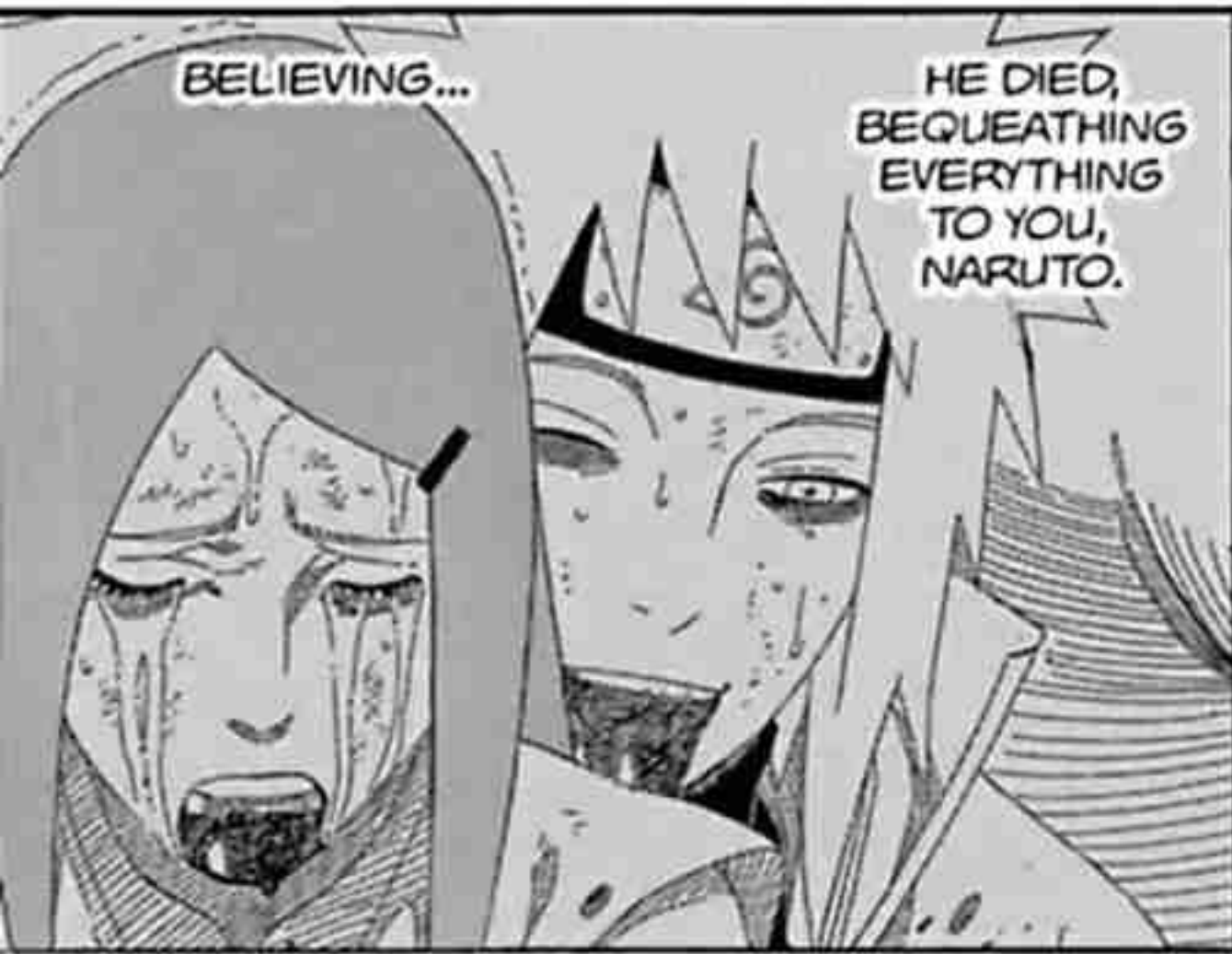
HE USED ALL OF
HIS ENERGY TO
DRAW MADARA
AND NINE TAILS
AWAY FROM
THE VILLAGE.



AND
WHEN
YOU
WERE
BORN...

MINATO
SAID,
"I'M A
FATHER
NOW!"
AND HE
CRIED!





HE DIED,
BEQUEATHING
EVERYTHING
TO YOU,
NARUTO.



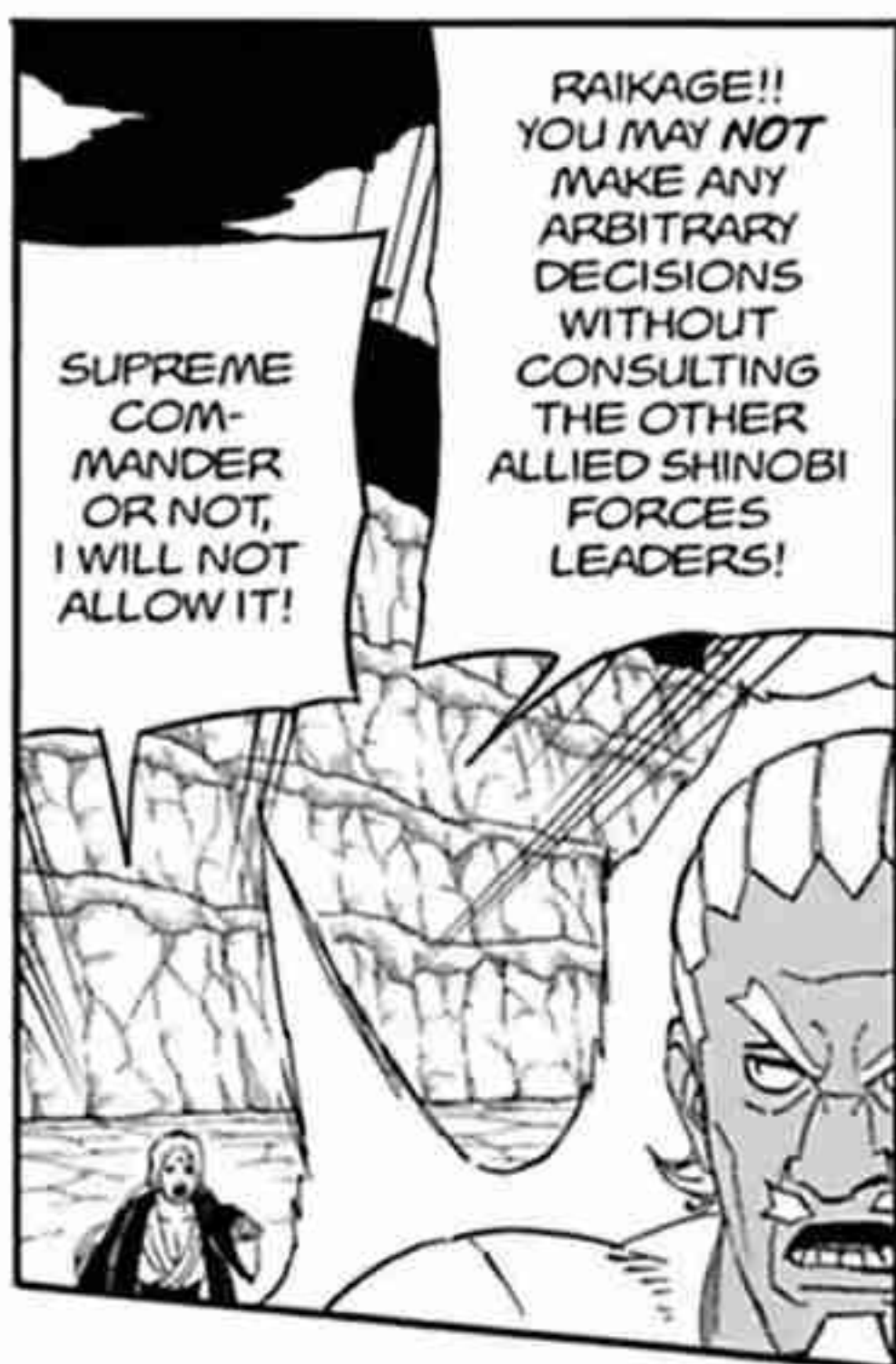


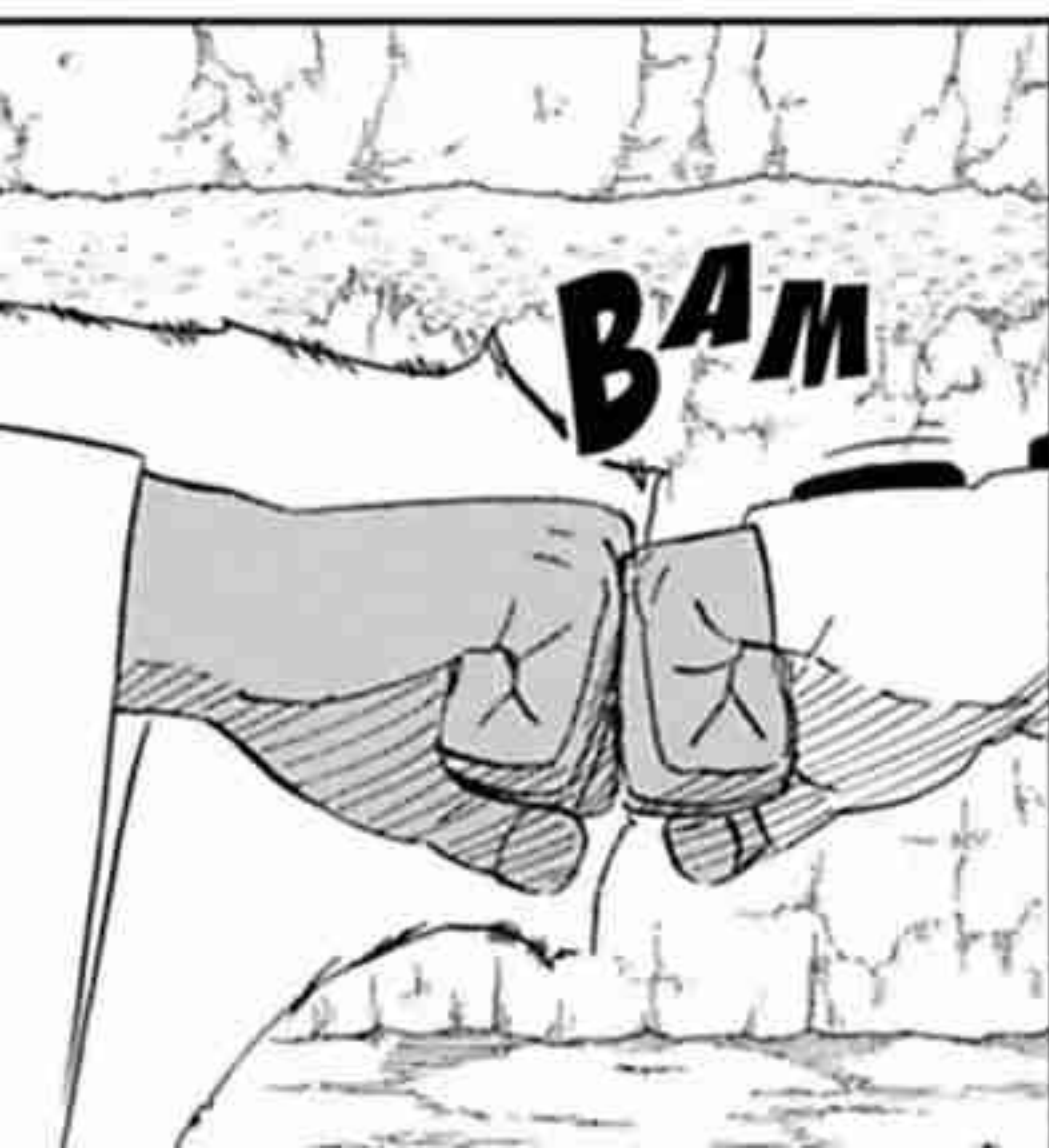




STANDING
HERE
YELLING,
ACTING
LIKE A
FOOL.♪

YOU
KILL HIM,
YOU
KILL ME
AND
EIGHT
TAILS
TOO!♪







YOU ALL KNOW
THAT HERE IN
KUMOGAKURE,
EACH RAIKAGE
IS ASSIGNED
A TAG TEAM
PARTNER!

AY HERE
IS A
CANDIDATE
TO BECOME
THE NEXT
RAIKAGE!

ONLY
ONE OF
YOU CAN
INHERIT
THE TITLE
OF BEE!!

YOU'LL
ATTEMPT
TO CHOP
THIS
RUBBER
DOLL'S
HEAD OFF
TOGETHER
WITH AY,
USING THE
DOUBLE
LARIAT!

WE'RE
NOW
GOING TO
TEST YOUR
COMPATI-
BILITY
WITH AY,
ONE BY
ONE!

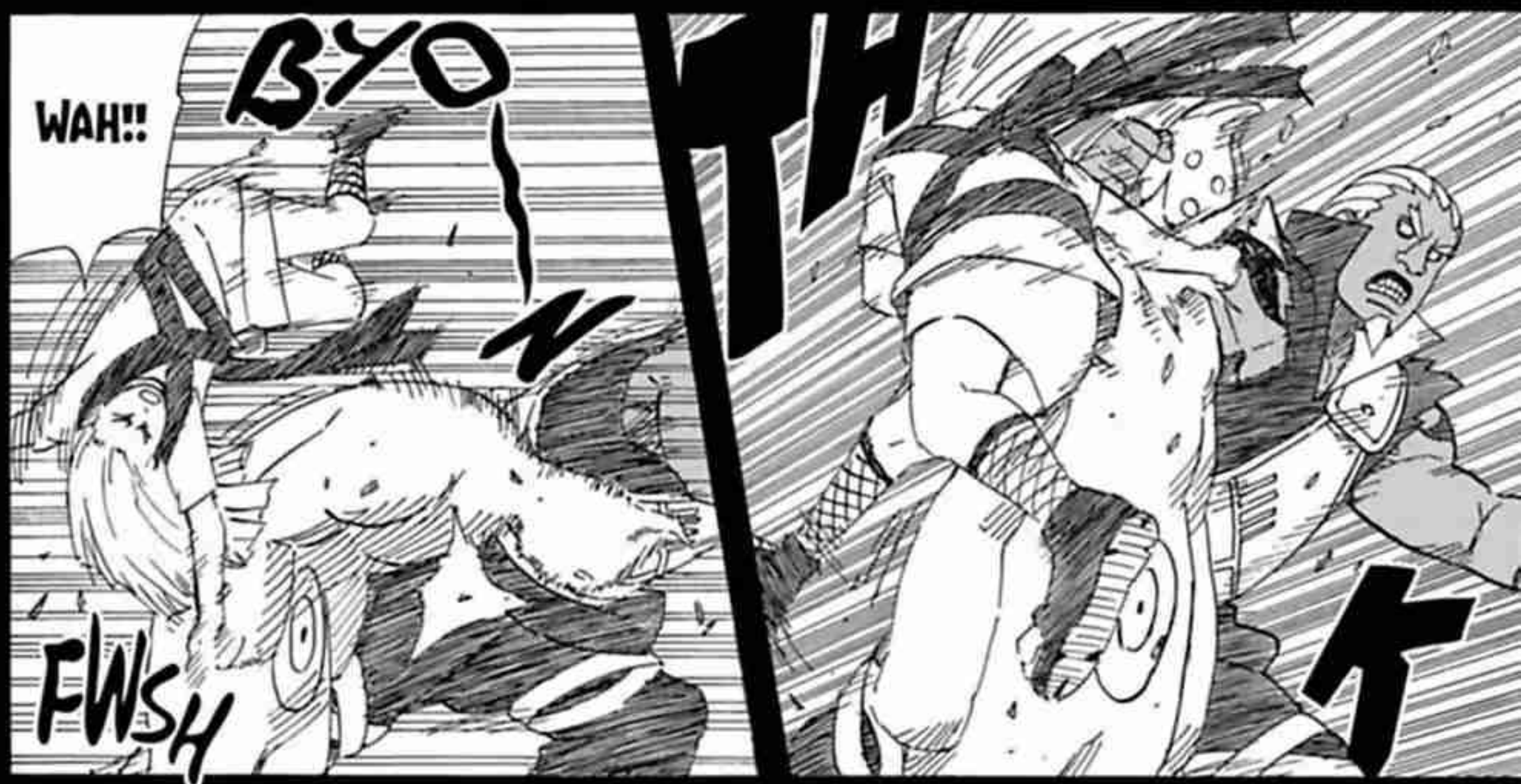
TO BE
BEE
IS TO
BE THE
BODY-
GUARD
OF THE
RAIKAGE.

SOMEONE
WHO WILL
DRAW
OUT THE
RAIKAGE'S
FULL
POWER.

IF ONE
SIDE
IS TOO
STRONG
OR TOO
WEAK,
THE HEAD
MERELY
GETS
BENT!

BYON

LISTEN!
THE DOUBLE
LARIAT IS
SET UP SUCH
THAT IT ONLY
WORKS IF
YOU APPLY
EQUAL
STRENGTH
FROM BOTH
SIDES!





NARUTO



Number 542:

The Secret Origin of the Ultimate Tag Team!!







...

JUST
HUSH
AND
LISTEN!

YOU'VE
KEPT
EIGHT
TAILS
UNDER
CONTROL.

LISTEN,
AS
YOUR
COUSIN
...

I'M NOT
COMPAT-
IBLE
EITHER.

BOTH MY
OLD MAN
AND MY
UNCLE
FAILED.



HAVE YOU
REALLY
ACHIEVED
COMPAT-
IBILITY...

...IF YOU
NOW WALK
THROUGH LIFE
WITH THE
SHADOW OF
YOUR OWN
DEATH?

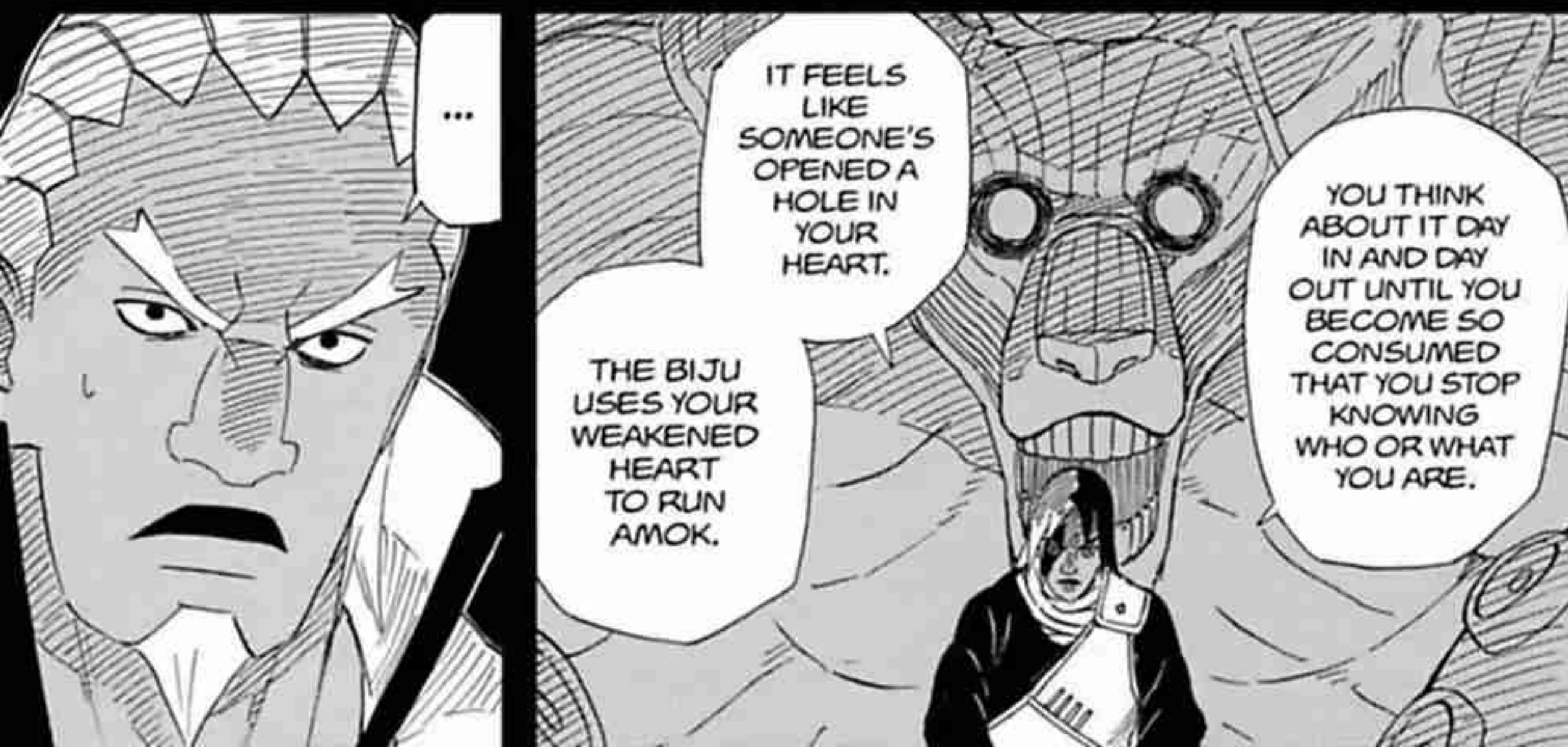
YOU CAN
NEVER
LOOK BACK.
ONLY
TOWARD THE
FUTURE.

BUT THAT
FUTURE IS
FILLED WITH
DARKNESS
AND
LONELINESS.

AND
EVEN IF
THEY THINK
YOU'RE
STILL THE
SAME,
WELL,
THAT'S
NOT
TRUE.

EVEN
YOUR
FRIENDS
LOOK AT YOU
DIFFERENTLY
AFTER THE
PROCESS.

ONLY
ANOTHER
JIN-
CHŪRIKI
CAN
UNDER-
STAND.



...

IT FEELS
LIKE
SOMEONE'S
OPENED A
HOLE IN
YOUR
HEART.

THE BIJU
USES YOUR
WEAKENED
HEART
TO RUN
AMOK.

YOU THINK
ABOUT IT DAY
IN AND DAY
OUT UNTIL YOU
BECOME SO
CONSUMED
THAT YOU STOP
KNOWING
WHO OR WHAT
YOU ARE.



TRUE,
AND THAT IS
WHY I WAS
CHOSEN AS
THE EIGHT
TAILS'
JINCHŪRIKI.

BUT YOU
HAVE
NINJUTSU,
SKILL,
ANCESTRY,
VIRTUE,
EVERYTHING!



YOU'D
SOON
RATHER
JUST
DIE.

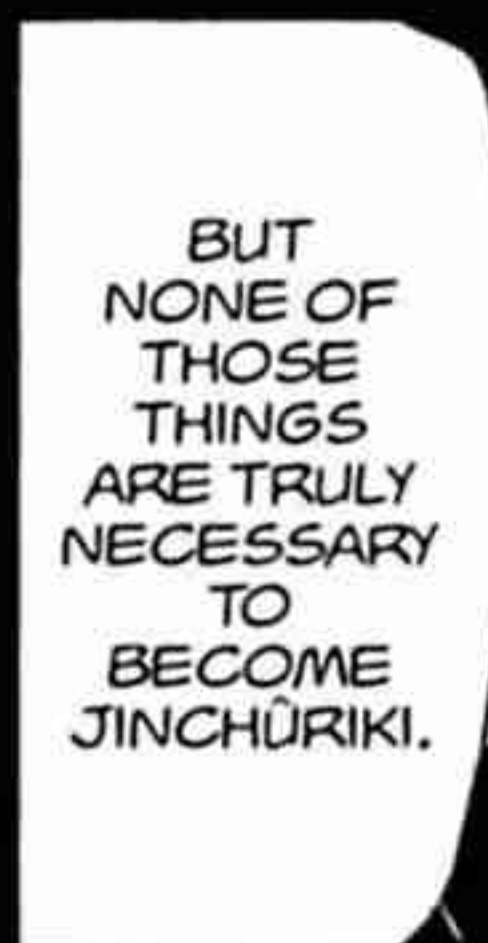
YOU LIVE
WITH THE
CONSTANT
FEAR OF
DEATH.



...



SO
WHAT
IS?



BUT
NONE OF
THOSE
THINGS
ARE TRULY
NECESSARY
TO
BECOME
JINCHŪRIKI.



...



AND
THAT'S
WHAT?



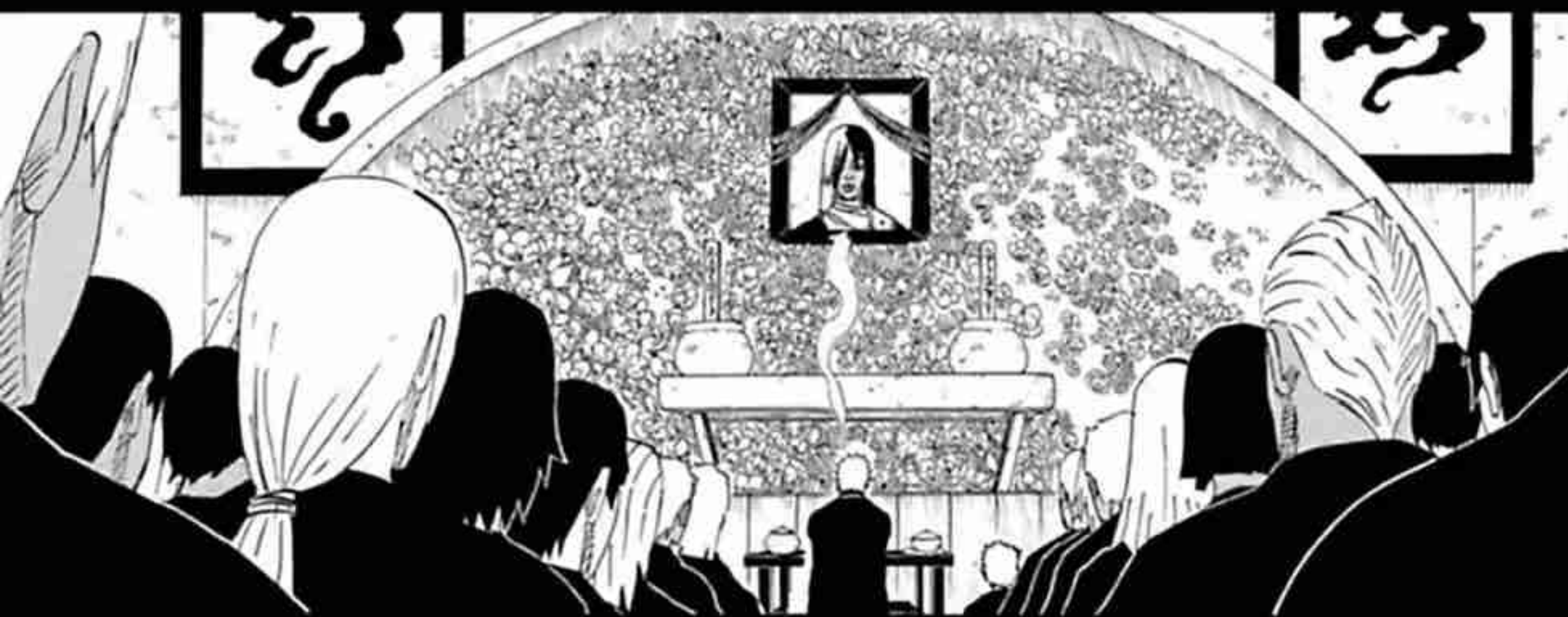
SOMETHING
THAT
CAN PLUG
THAT HOLE
IN YOUR
HEART!



SO
MAKE
SURE
THAT
BEE
FINDS
IT.

YOU'LL
KNOW IT
WHEN IT
HAP-
PENS!!

IF
YOU CAN
FIND IT,
YOU WILL
STAY
STRONG.



...

ISN'T
HE THE
NEXT
JINCHŪ-
RIKI?

THAT
CHILD?

HOW
MUCH
LONGER
WILL WE
HAVE TO GO
THROUGH
THIS?

EIGHT
TAILS IS
MUCH
MORE
DIFFICULT
TO
CONTAIN
THAN
TWO
TAILS.

ANOTHER
FAILURE.
THIS
RAMPAGE,
EIGHT
VICTIMS.



I
DON'T
THINK
HE'LL
MAKE
IT.

WHEE
-!!



IT'S QUITE
AN HONOR,
TO HOST
THE BIJU.♪
SO HEY,
I PAY
TRIBUTE
NOW...
TO YOU♪



FSH

Y-YOU
LITTLE
WRETCH.
HOW
DARE YOU
KILL MY
COMRADES.

Whoo





F-FOOL,
YA
FOOL,
YO♪

I-I
KNOW-

I'M STILL
TONING
DOWN MY
STRENGTH
TO MATCH
YOURS,
YOU GOTTA
GET
STRONGER!

BEE,
WE'VE GOT
A LONG WAY
TO GO
BEFORE
THE DOUBLE
LARIAT IS
WHERE WE
NEED IT
TO BE!



THEN
I'LL WIN
WHEN
WE
PLAY♪

I'LL BE
STRONGER
THAN YOU
SOME-
DAY♪



YOU
WANT
THE IRON
CLAW,
THEN!!
HERE!!

DON'T
EVER
CALL
ME A
FOOL,
LITTLE
BRO!!

SK
SH

NOOOO!!!



SO GO
AHEAD,
GET MORE
POWERFUL
THAN ME.
THEN YOU'LL
JUST HAVE TO
TONE YOUR
STRENGTH
DOWN!!

DOUBLE
LARIAT
REQUIRES
OUR
STRENGTH
TO BE
EQUAL!



GWA-
HA
HA
HA
HA!!

SUCH
DELUSIONS
WILL HAVE
TO WAIT
UNTIL YOU'VE
HONED
YOUR LARIAT!

OH,
I WILL♪
AND I'LL
GET
STRONGER
STILL♪



SOMETHING THAT CAN PLUG THAT HOLE IN YOUR HEART!



YEAH.

WE'LL BE SEALING EIGHT TAILS INSIDE BEE TONIGHT.



IF YOU CAN FIND IT, YOU WILL STAY STRONG.



EVERY-THING'S GOING TO CHANGE.

YOUR LIFE IS GOING TO BE VERY HARD.

MEBBE I'LL NAME THAT OCTOPUS, WHILE I DO MY RAPPIN'!

YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME A JIN-CHURIKI ...!

OH! NO SWEAT, I KINDA FIGURED THAT MIGHT HAPPEN!



THD THD THD THD

HUNH? MMM.

WHAT'S UP, BRO?



FOR
YOU'RE
...

LISTEN,
BEE, ALWAYS
TELL ME
EVERYTHING,
GOT IT?
NO
SECRETS?!



BAM



WE'RE
THE
ULTIMATE
TAG
TEAM!

...VERY
SPECIAL
TO ME!



EIGHT
TAILS,
THAT
BE ME,
DA
RAPPIN
KILLER
BEE!

FA
SHOW!



STAY
ON
GUARD.

RIGHT
ABOUT
NOW
EIGHT
TAILS IS
GONNA
GO
CRAZY.













YOU
OVERCOME
BEING THE
EIGHT TAILS
JINCHŪRIKI
TO BE
YOUR OWN
NINJA.

YOU'RE
BRAVE.

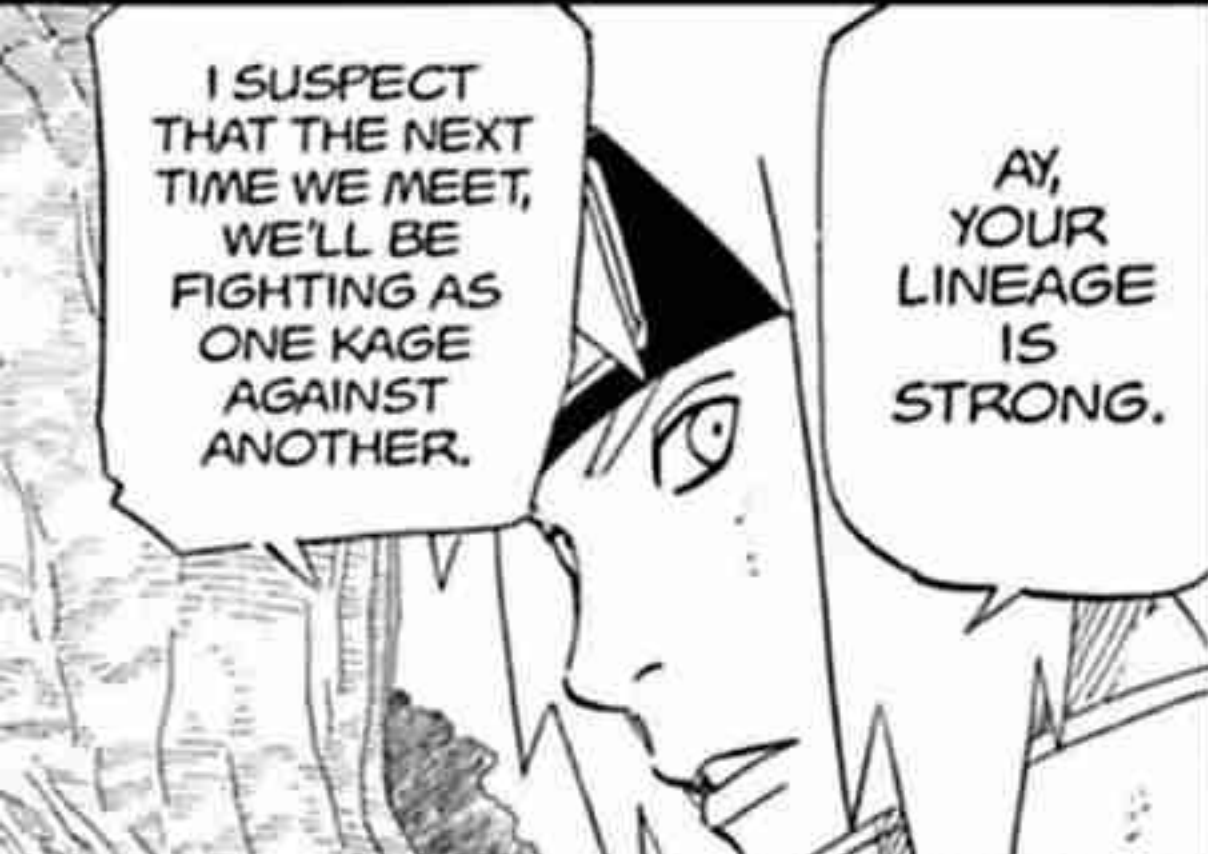


FOR
EIGHT
TAILS,
THAT BE
ME, DA
RAPPIN'
KILLER
BEE.

THAT
WAS
NUTHIN'.



HUNH?!



I SUSPECT
THAT THE NEXT
TIME WE MEET,
WE'LL BE
FIGHTING AS
ONE KAGE
AGAINST
ANOTHER.

AY,
YOUR
LINEAGE
IS
STRONG.



HE
ALREADY
HAS
SOMETHING
EVEN MORE
IMPORTANT.

NO,
IT'S
MORE
THAN
THAT.

HUMPH!
HE'S
MORE
TALENTED
THAN
EVEN I!



... HE
WON'T BE
JINCHŪRIKI
OR EVEN
HUMAN.



BUT IF YOU
DON'T FIGURE
OUT SOON
WHAT YOUR
LITTLE
BROTHER
CONSIDERS
MOST
PRECIOUS
TO HIM...

NARUTO



Number 543: Truer Words



SPOUT
ALL THE
NONSENSE
YOU WANT,
BUT
YOU'RE
NOT
GETTING
AWAY!



HUMPH!



I'VE GOT
MY OWN
RESPONSI-
BILITIES.

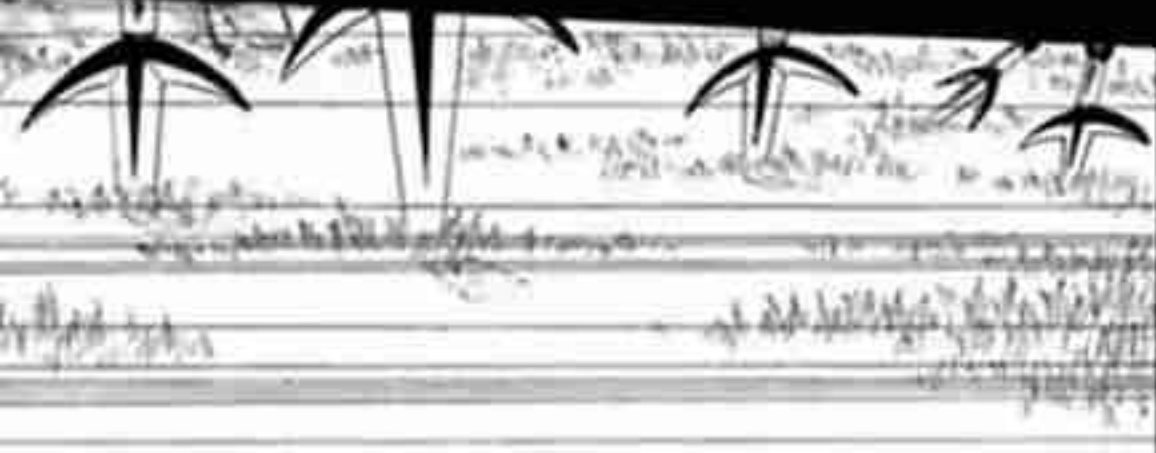


HE TELEPORTS
HIMSELF TO
WHERE HIS
KUNAI ARE.
THEY'RE MARKED
WITH JUTSU
FORMULA.

I'VE
NOTED THE
LOCATION
OF MOST OF
THOSE KUNAI
SO IF I CAN
FIGURE OUT
WHICH ONE
HE'LL POP
UP AT,
I CAN GET
HIM USING MY
TOP SPEED!



NOW,
WHICH
KUNAI
WILL
IT
BE?!



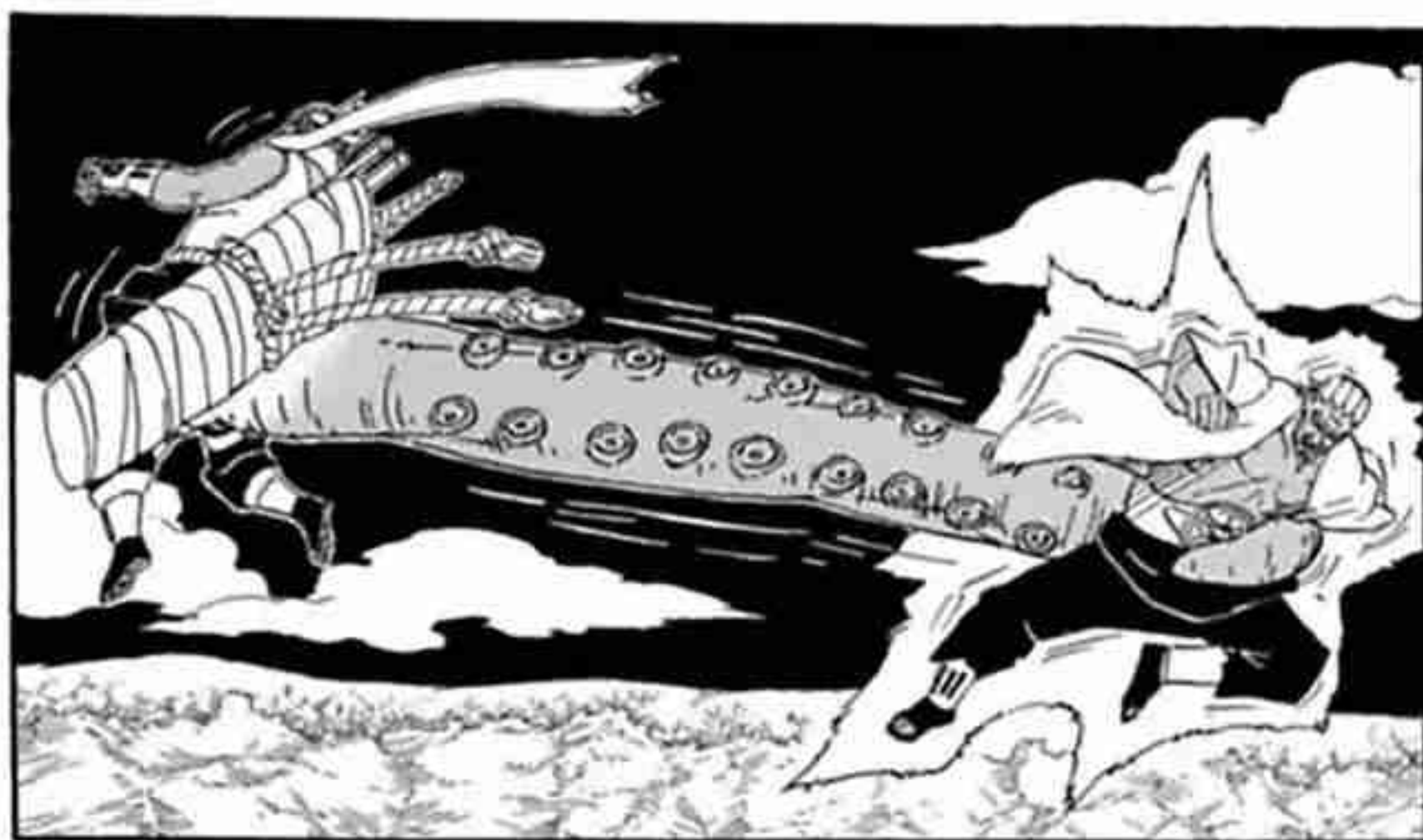
GO
FLY!













THANKS,
OCTOPOPS!!



YOU
DON'T
GET IT,
BRO?!

FOOL,
YA
FOOL!



WHY,
BEE?!!



UNGH!!

OW!!



HUMPH!

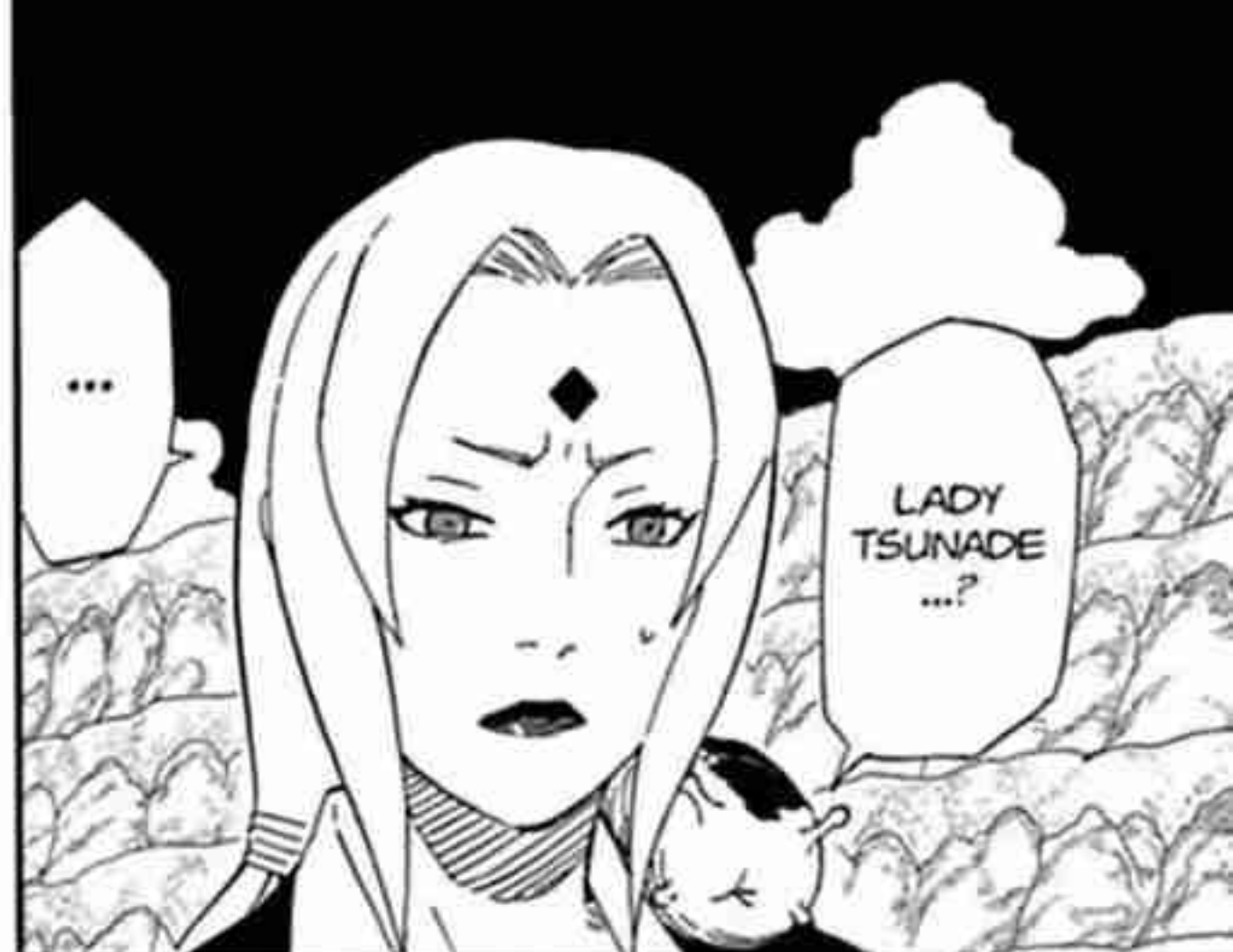


HOKAGE!!
YOU
HELP
TOO!



UNGH!

ARGH!











THERE'S
GONNA BE
A BUNCH
OF HOLES
IN WALLS
NOW.

HE
PUNCHED
HIS WAY
OUT
THROUGH
THE WALL.

FOLLOW
THEM
TO FIND
HIM.



I
KNOW!



...

STARTING
TODAY,
YOU'RE
THE
RAIKAGE,
YO!



FSH

HANG
IN
THERE,
BRO!



...



THAT
WAS MY
OLD MAN'S
DYING
WISH!

WE'RE IN
THE MIDDLE
OF A WAR!
I **WILL** PROTECT
THIS VILLAGE
AND NATION TO
THE VERY END,
AS RAIKAGE!!

?!

YOU
WON'T BE
ENGAGING
THE
ENEMY!

BEE!
STARTING TODAY,
GO TO STORM
CLOUD RAVINE
AND WORK
ON YOUR
BIJU BOMB!!

YOU'RE
NEVER TO
LEAVE THE
VILLAGE
AGAIN!

ALL
RIGHT
?!!

BUT MY
LARIAT—

I DON'T
NEED
YOUR
LARIAT
ANYMORE!

EVEN IF THE
ENEMY COMES
INVADING, YOU
WILL STAY IN THE
VILLAGE AND
USE YOUR LONG-
RANGE BIJU
BOMB TO TAKE
THEM DOWN!

SCREECH







YOU MEAN...
THOSE
WORDS...
I SAID TO YOU
IN FRONT OF
THE WATERFALL
OF TRUTH?



SO YOU'RE
NOT A
FOOL,
YA FOOL?!

AND
I'LL GET
STRONGER
STILL,
RIGHT?
FA SHOW!



WE'RE
THE
ULTIMATE
TAG
TEAM!

FOR
YOU'RE
VERY
SPECIAL
TO ME!



YOU'LL KNOW IT
WHEN IT HAPPENS!!
IF YOU CAN FIND IT,
YOU WILL STAY
STRONG. SO MAKE
SURE THAT BEE
FINDS IT.

AAH.



THE TWO
OF US
POSSESS
AN EVEN
BIGGER
FORCE!

BEING
JINCHŪRIKI
ISN'T
OUR ONLY
POWER
SOURCE!

SO LONG
AS I HAVE
THEM, I TRULY
BELIEVE I
CAN STAY
STRONG,
MY POWER'S
NO JOKE!

BEFORE
I RECEIVED
EIGHT TAILS,
TRUER
WORDS YOU
NEVER
SPOKE!



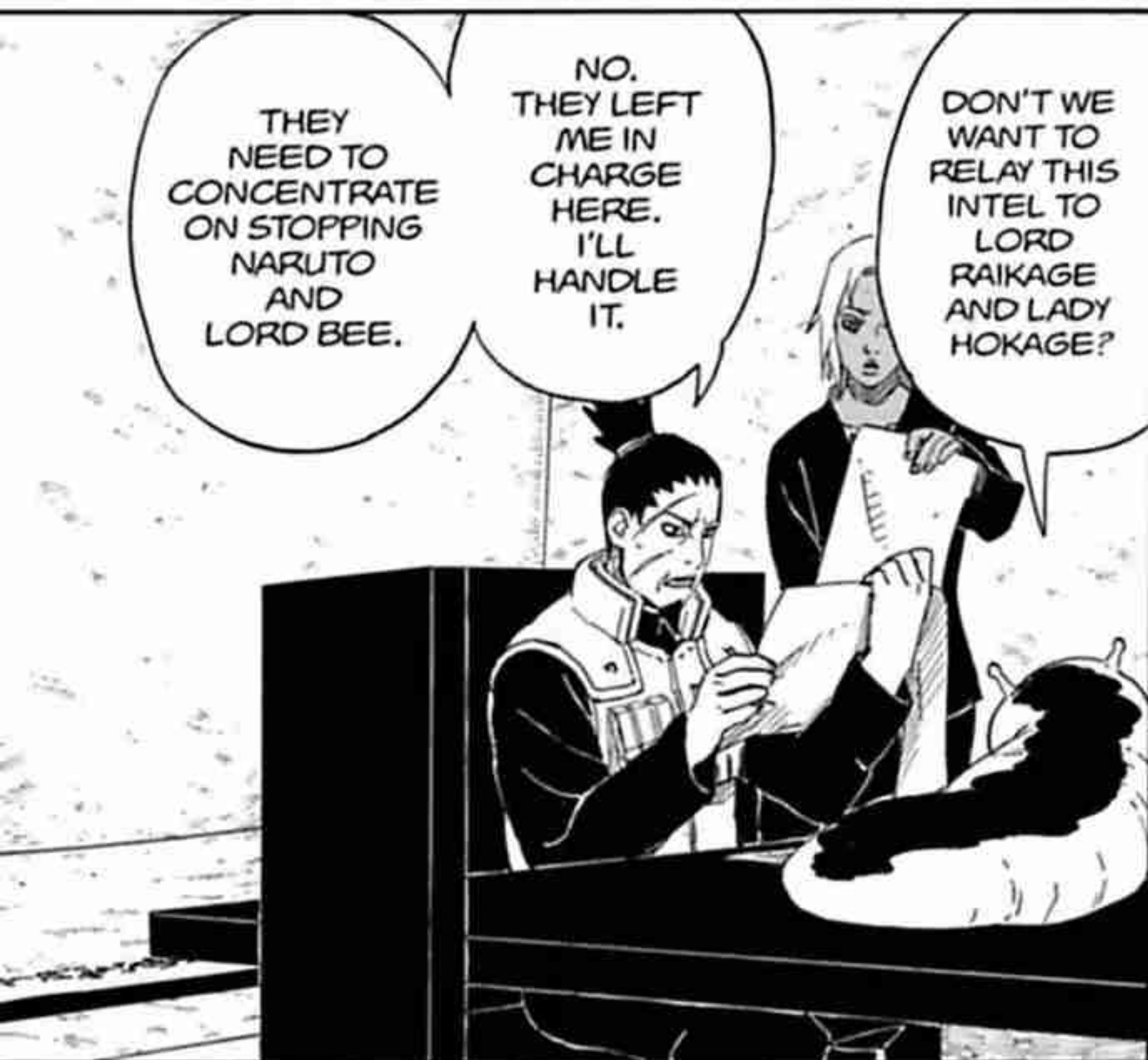
W-
WOW
...!



UNGH.

NARUTO

Number 544: Two Suns!!



Number 544: Two Suns!!



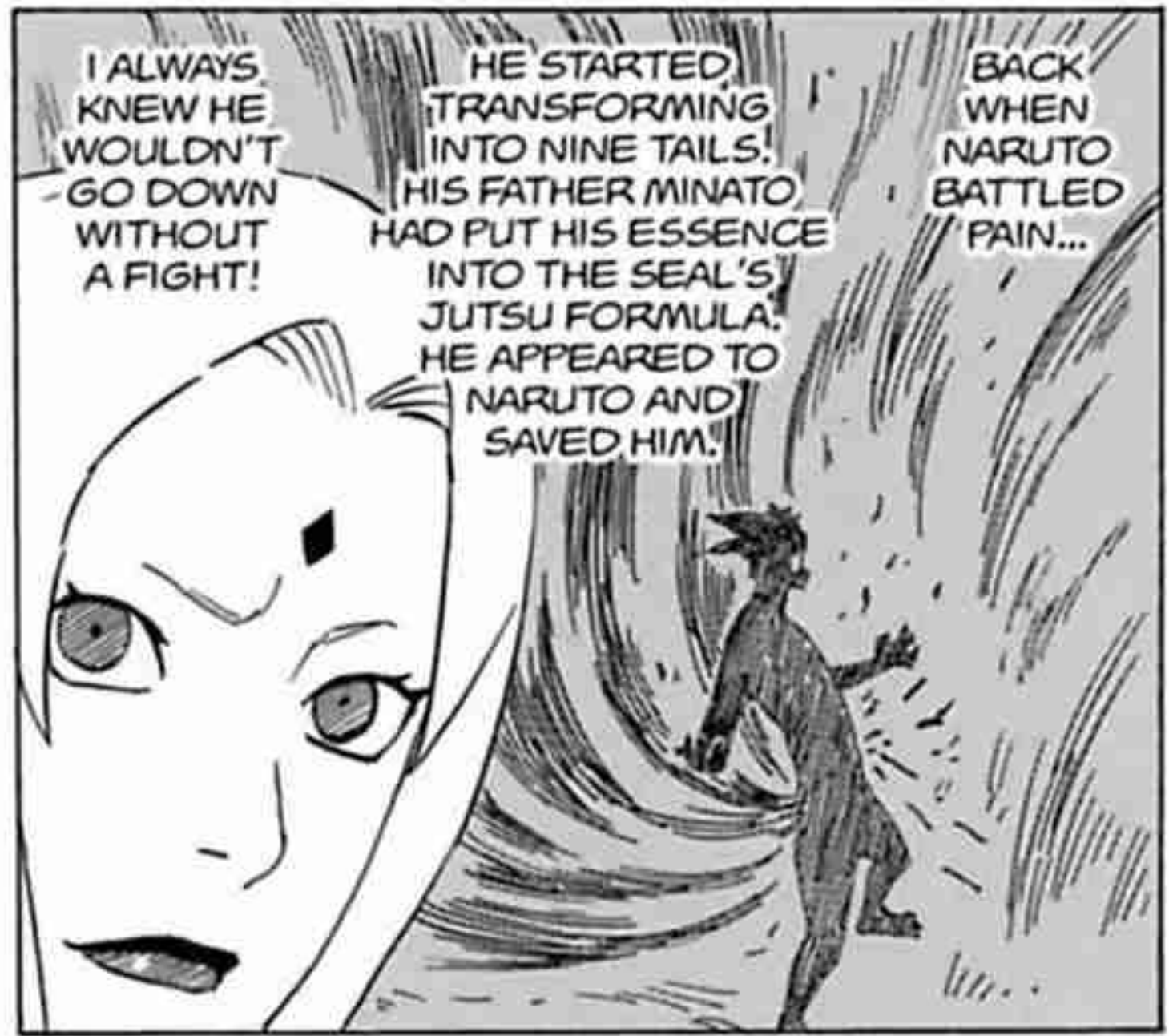






...PA
MADE
SURE I
GOT TO
MEET
MY MA!

WHEN
I WAS
TRYING TO
CONTROL
NINE
TAILS...



I ALWAYS
KNEW HE
WOULDN'T
GO DOWN
WITHOUT
A FIGHT!

HE STARTED
TRANSFORMING
INTO NINE TAILS!
HIS FATHER MINATO
HAD PUT HIS ESSENCE
INTO THE SEAL'S
JUTSU FORMULA.
HE APPEARED TO
NARUTO AND
SAVED HIM!

BACK
WHEN
NARUTO
BATTLED
PAIN...



ALL
FOR
ME!!



SHE WAS
ABLE TO
HANG OUT
WITH ME
WHILE I
UNDID THE
NINE TAILS'
SEAL!

PA SAID
HE'D WOVEN
MA'S
CHAKRA
INTO THE
SEAL.



IT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT!



IT IS
POSSIBLE,

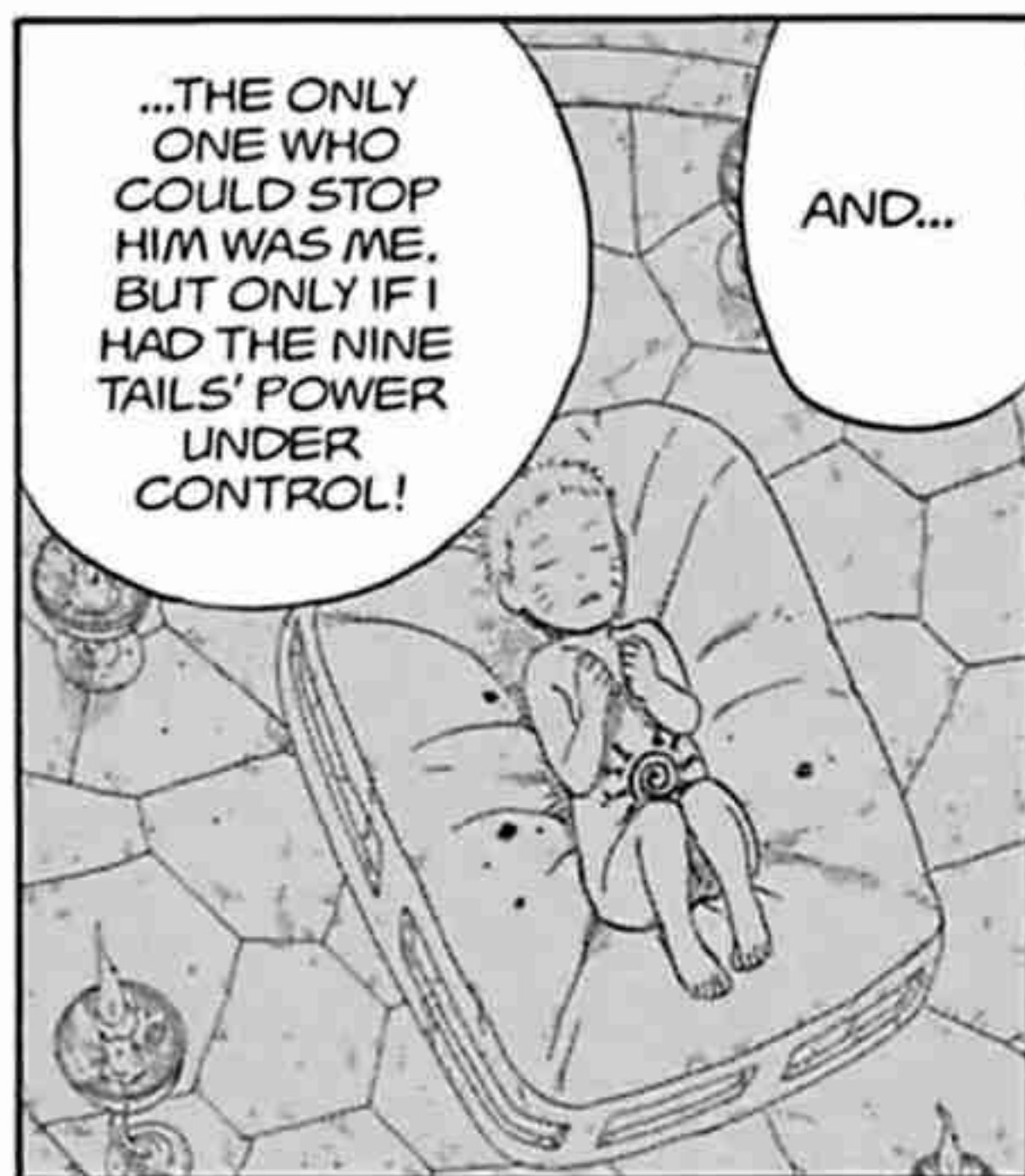
THE FOURTH
HOKAGE HAD
STUDIED THE
UZUMAKI CLAN'S
UNIQUE
SEALING JUTSU.
KUSHINA'S
CHAKRA
AND LIFE
FORCE WERE
POWERFUL
WITHOUT
QUESTION.



HE
LEARNED
TWO
THINGS.

ONE
TIME PA
FOUGHT
THIS GUY
IN A
MASK.

MA
HELPED
ME GET
THIS
POWER.
AND SHE
TOLD ME
**EVERY-
THING!**

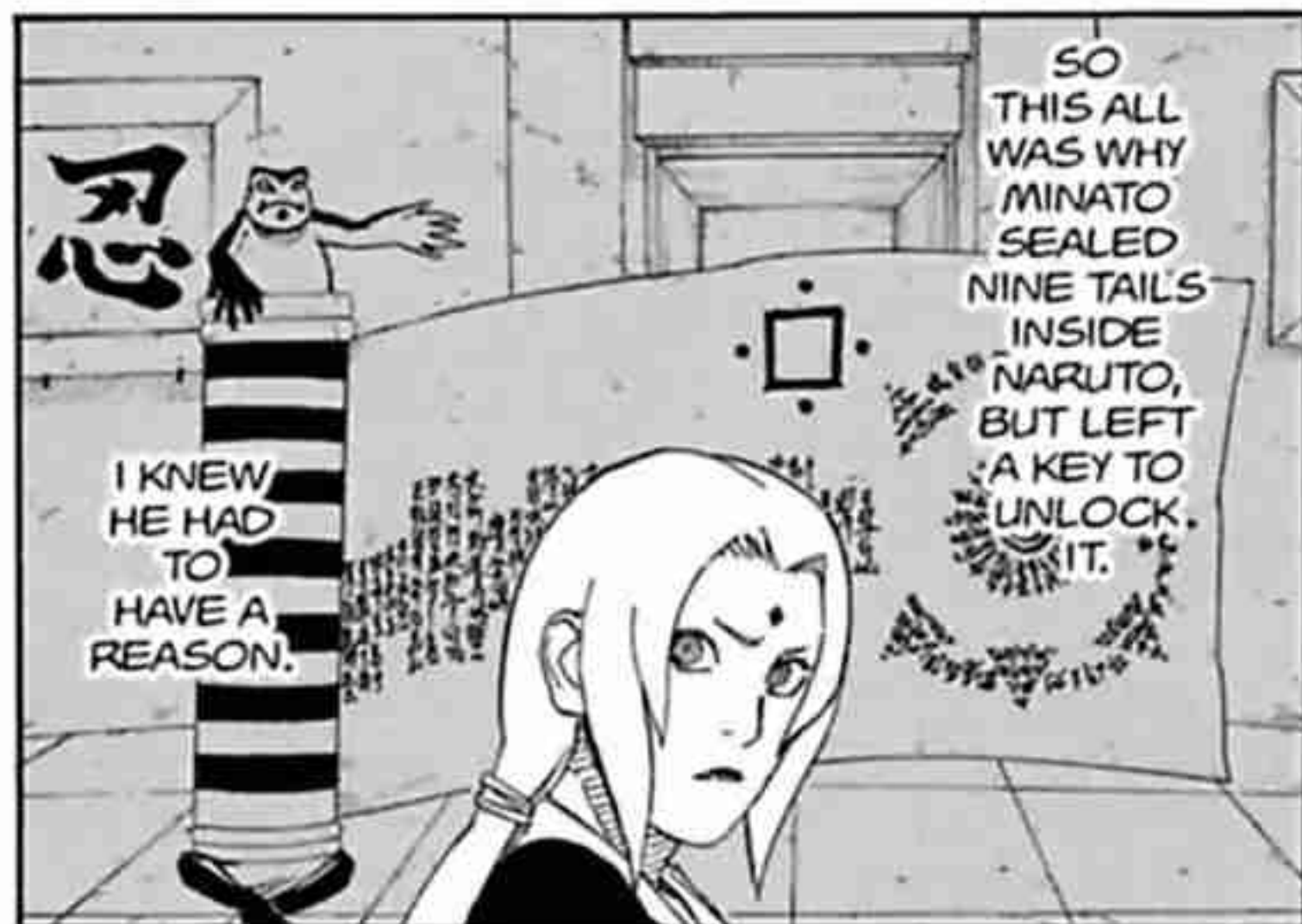


...THE ONLY
ONE WHO
COULD STOP
HIM WAS ME.
BUT ONLY IF I
HAD THE NINE
TAILS' POWER
UNDER
CONTROL!

AND...



THIS
MASKED
GUY WAS
GONNA
TRY TO
DESTROY
THE
FUTURE.



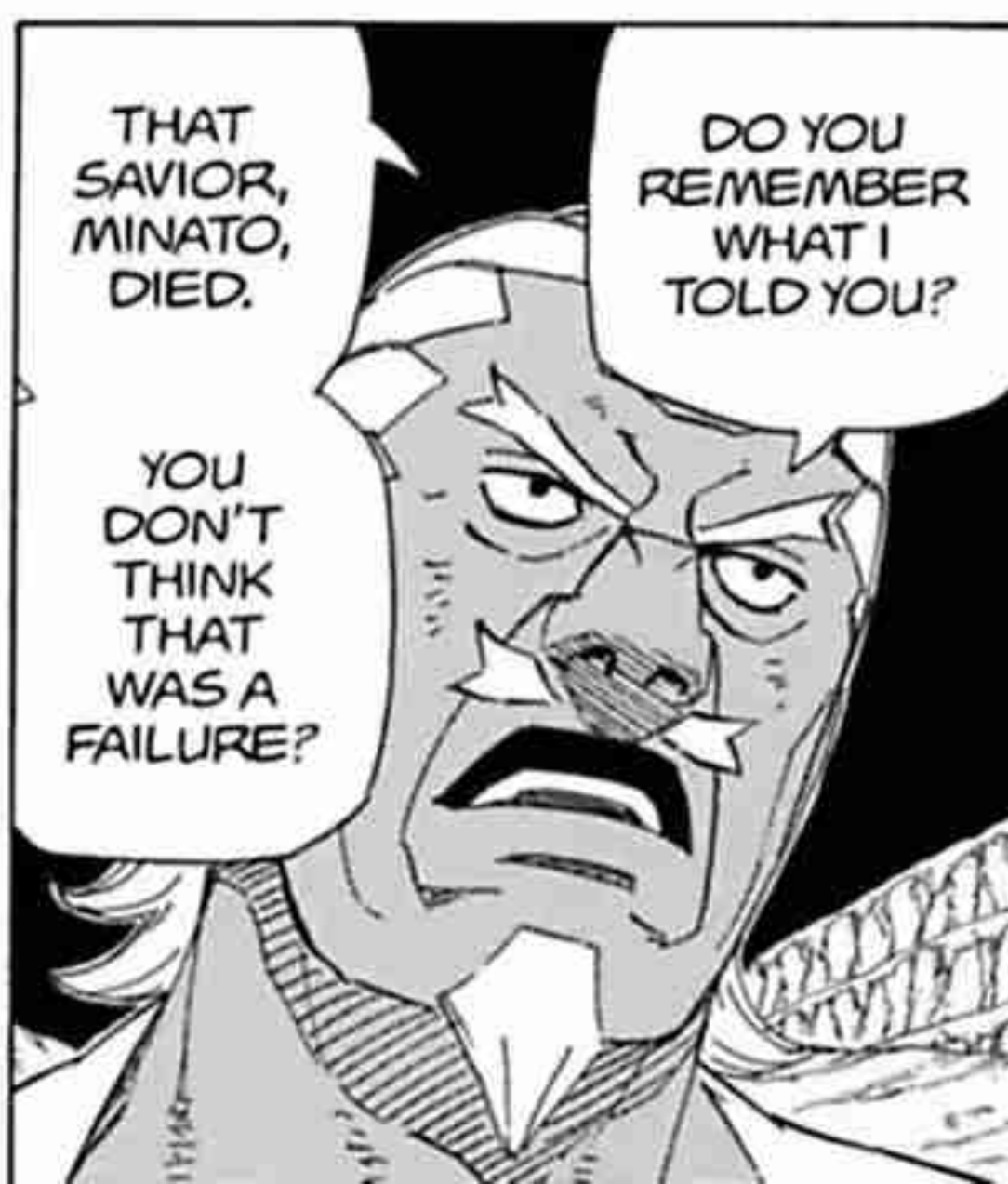
I KNEW
HE HAD
TO
HAVE A
REASON.

SO
THIS ALL
WAS WHY
MINATO
SEALED
NINE TAILS
INSIDE
NARUTO,
BUT LEFT
A KEY TO
UNLOCK
IT.



SO THAT
KONOHA
NINE TAILS
INCIDENT
WAS
MADARA'S
DOING,
AFTER
ALL,
HUH.

MASKED
MAN.
MEANING
MADARA,
EH.





THEY
DIED
PRO-
TECTING
ME!

HE AND MY
MOTHER DIED
PROTECTING
KONOHA FROM
THE ENEMY
AND THE
NINE-TAILED
FOX!



MY
FATHER
DIED.



BUT
THEY
LEFT
ME SO
MUCH.



IT ONLY
TOOK A
SECOND.



I
WILL
BE
THE
SAVIOR!!

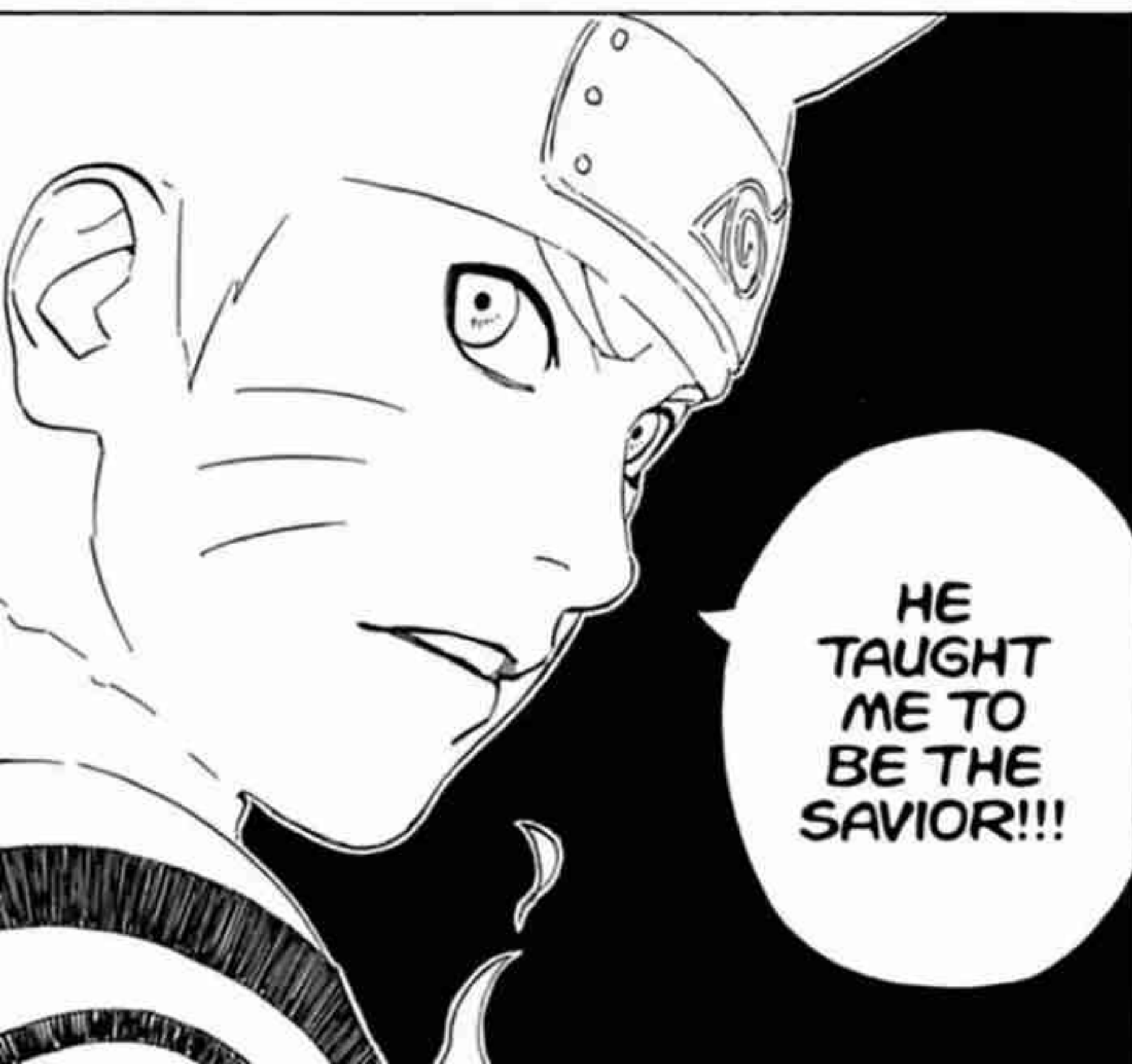
WHAT
THEY
GAVE
ME...

...WILL
MAKE
ME
WIN!!













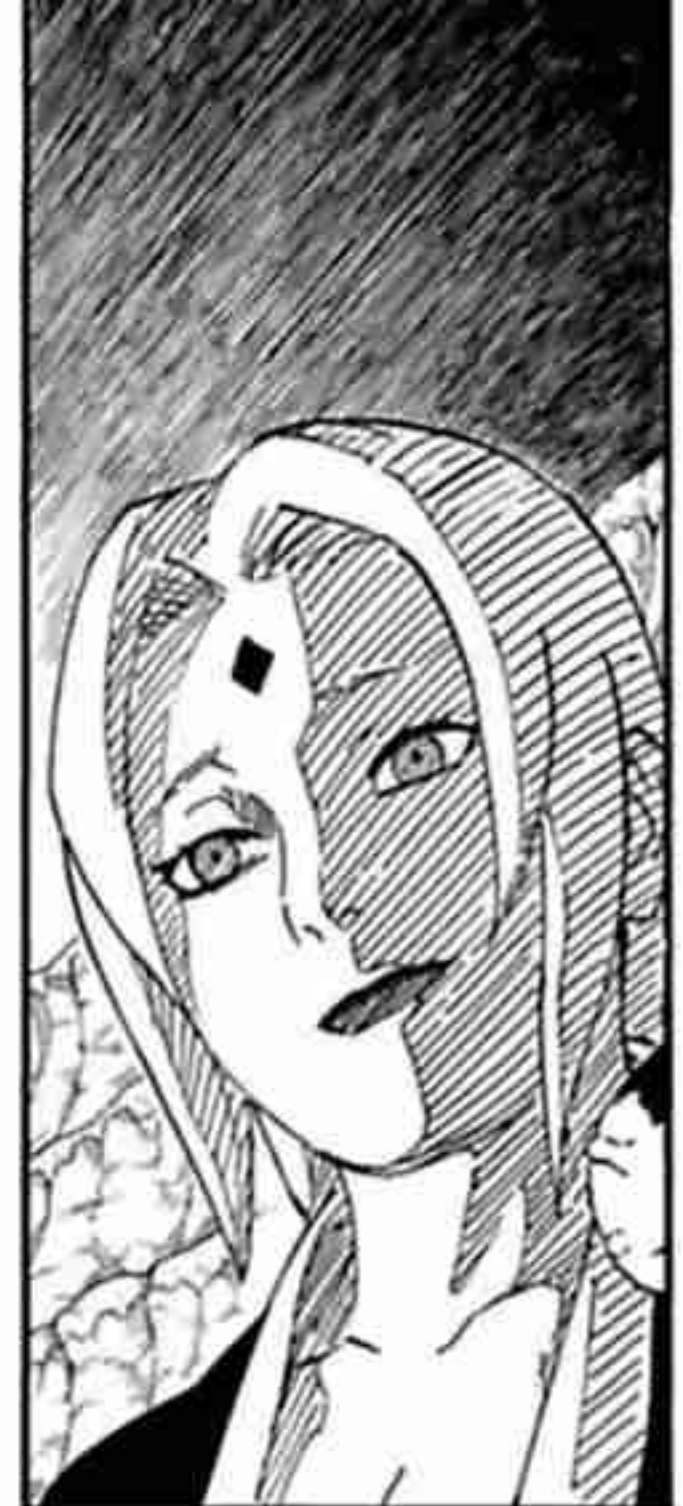
HE'LL BE
ABLE TO SEE
THROUGH
THE WHITE
BEINGS'
TRANS-
FORMATION
TECHNIQUE!

ACCORD-
ING
TO THIS
DATA...

NARUTO
CAN SENSE
HOSTILITY
WHEN IN
NINE TAILS
CHAKRA
MODE.



UNFOR-
TUNATELY,
THIS
REALLY
IS THE
ONLY
WAY!



IF WE
LET ANY
MORE
TIME PASS,
THERE'LL
BE NO
GOING
BACK!

THERE'S
ONLY
ONE
PROBLEM.

HE CAN
CREATE
SHADOW
DOPPEL-
GANGERS.
WE CAN DEPLOY
HIM TO EACH
AND EVERY
BATTLEFIELD
TO DEAL WITH
THEM SIMUL-
TANEOUSLY.



UM...
THAT'S
THE
THING...



TRUE.

OUR
PRI-
ORITIES
ARE
OFF.

THERE'S
NO WAY THE
RAIKAGE WILL
APPROVE
SUCH A
PLAN.



TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOLUME 58!